

Spanner S/M case upheld:
Consent immaterial in cases of
bodily harm, says European court.
page 23

Lady Day:
Special events for
Intern'l Women's Day.
page 14



Short shorts
'Boys Life 2': Four gay films
open at the Castro Theatre.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 25 years



Rick Gerharter

Picket defense: ACT UP demonstrators in 1988 held firm against police officers who tried to stop their demo at Burroughs-Wellcome headquarters in Burlingame.

ACT UP: Ten years on the front lines of an epidemic

by Matthew Sharp,
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers Pool

when the AIDS/ARC Vigil was begun. In 1988, a group of about 300 protesters marched 15 miles to the Burroughs-Wellcome office in Burlingame to protest the high cost of AZT. Some things never change.

Later, the San Francisco chapter of ACT UP was born out of AIDS Action Pledge, a San Francisco direct action group, at about the same time as the New York Wall Street action. ACT UP/Golden Gate split from ACT UP/San Francisco in October 1990, in order to focus on treatment issues. The remaining group that worked on AIDS social justice issues under the

Ten reasons to carry on

**Join ACT UP's
big birthday
bash Monday**

by Cynthia Laird

name ACT UP/San Francisco became defunct in 1994, and the individuals currently using that name have no affiliation or working relationship with other ACT UP chapters.

"Crash the Market," a demonstration commemorating the 1987 Wall Street action and ten years of the ACT UP movement, will take place Monday, March 23 in New York City. AIDS activists from across the country once again will risk arrest on Wall Street targeting the AIDS drug industry, including Glaxo-Wellcome. The demonstration is a symbolic action against the continued greed and profiteering of the AIDS industry. Billions of dollars have been made, tens of thousands have died.

Although breakthroughs have been made in HIV treatment, the

page 25 ►

INSIDE

ACT UP	25
BAR Talk	56
Bazaar	54
Classifieds	27
Mailstrom	9
Obituaries	24
Open Forum	8
Our Man Friday	11
Out & About	50
Out There	39
Past Out	13
Personals	58
Sapphistication	12
Sports Complex	26

State bills affect your future

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

Gay lobbyists and legislative staff members in Sacramento are asking the gay and lesbian community for help. A number of new bills have been introduced that can have great impact on gays and lesbians, and staffers are asking people to write letters to the appropriate legislators and to follow the bills through the legislative process.

"Letters really do make a difference," said Jennifer Richard, policy consultant to speaker Pro Tem Sheila Kuehl (D-Los Angeles). "People have been led to believe they should only write letters to their direct representatives, but that's not the code."

"When legislators speak from their offices they are representing the interests of their districts, but when they are in committee they are doing the state's business and represent the interests of all of the people in the state. That's why it's important to write committee members or the chair of committee in which your bill is being heard - they really do take those letters into consid-



page <None> ► Speaker Pro Tem Sheila Kuehl

A big party to celebrate the tenth anniversary of ACT UP's formation will be held in San Francisco on Monday, March 10. ACT UP/Golden Gate will host the "ACT UP Ten Year Bash." Hundreds of activists are expected to be reunited during an evening of mirth, entertainment, music, comedy, camp, and an abundance of birthday cake, said event organizer Michael Lauro.

The festive party will honor the groundbreaking achievements of thousands of unpaid ACT UP activists throughout the world, and the historic explosion of chapters that literally became the "ACT UP phenomenon."

ACT UP/Golden Gate members promise a tasty spaghetti dinner buffet, prepared by local chefs, for a bargain donation of \$10 per person. Area restaurants have also helped out by generously donating bottles of wine, glasses of which will be sold at Monday's dinner.

The full-time, in-your-face volunteer group ... promises to leave page 25 ►

A life-long treatment plan for HIV should include therapies that not only work, but which you can live with.

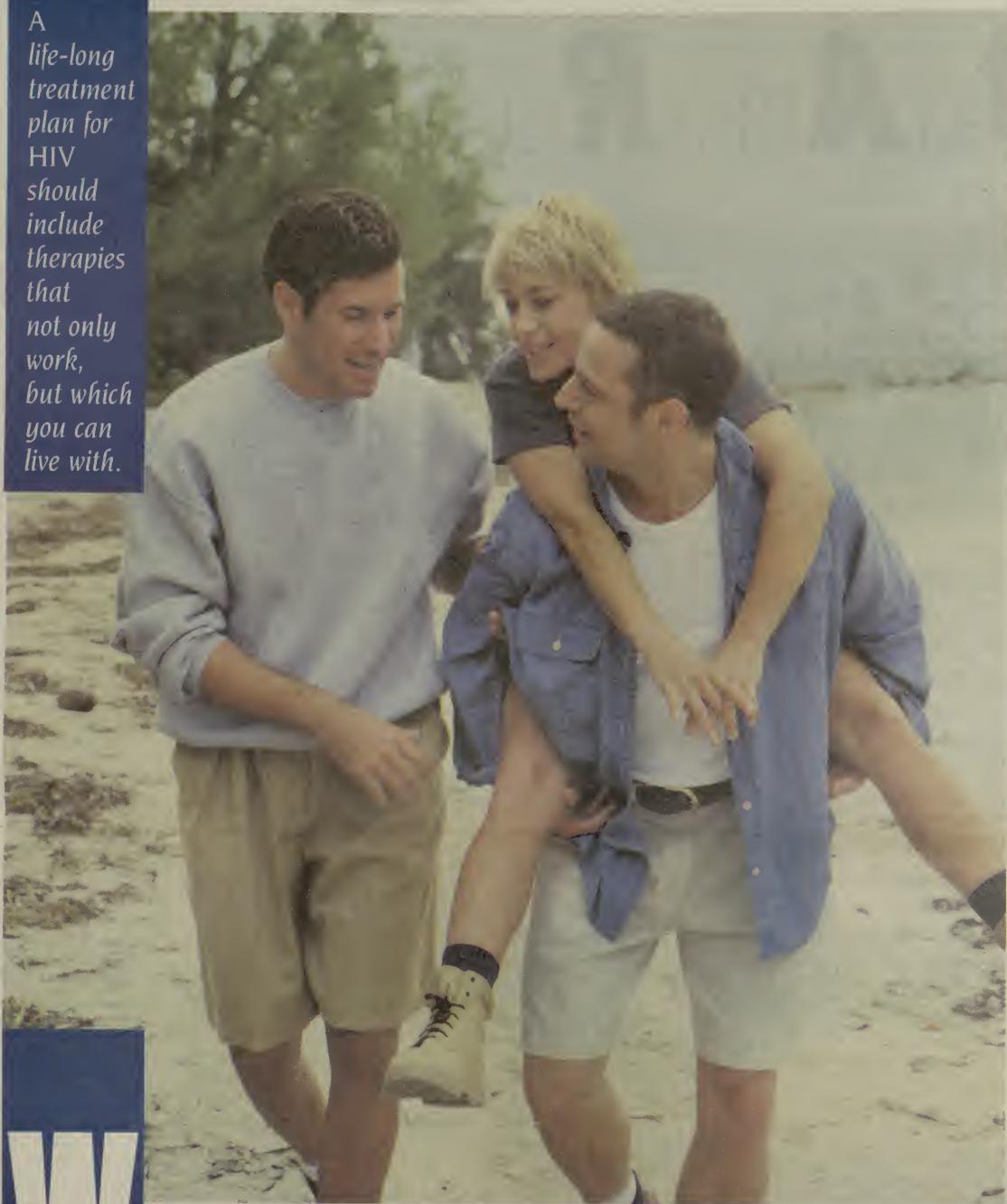
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What's your STRATEGY...?

If you are thinking about starting therapy for HIV or are already receiving therapy, it's never too early—or too late—to develop a strategy for the long term.

The latest evidence from a variety of clinical trials as well as patient experiences indicates that delay of disease progression and prolonged survival are now within reach.

As a result, there is a new sense of optimism that HIV will eventually be managed as a long-term, chronic disease. The question is: How do you plan for the long run?



All individuals depicted are HIV positive.

The Experts Are Divided...

There have been major advances in treatment of HIV. A larger number of medications are currently available for treatment and more are in development. However, there are still many questions to be answered. Even the experts have differing opinions as to the best way to use all of these new options.

Currently, there are two schools of thought regarding antiretroviral treatment.

Hit hard, hit early?

One approach is to "hit hard, hit early." Because we now have new information about how quickly the HIV virus replicates (or reproduces itself) from the very outset of infection, some experts believe that treatment should begin as an attack with the most intensive therapy possible. They feel that eliminating as much of the virus as possible as quickly as possible is the most important consideration.

...or develop a sequencing strategy?

However, many other experts feel that successful long-term HIV therapy requires more than strong medicine. These experts believe that a life-long treatment plan for HIV disease should include therapies that not only work, but which you can live with, as well. Since "drug holidays" can contribute to treatment failure, they are concerned that the side effects

and demanding dosing schedules of some anti-HIV drugs could cause people to skip doses or take less than the proper amount of their medicine. While the risk posed by drug-resistant strains of HIV is not completely known, HIV specialists are also concerned that, if resistance develops to drugs used early in therapy, the virus could become less sensitive to future treatments too.

Therefore, they recommend sequencing combinations of drugs, based on a number of factors, including an individual's symptoms, CD4 cell count and blood-level of HIV, previous treatments, lifestyle and future therapeutic options.

Where to Begin?

The goal of therapy is staying healthy for as long as possible, and, over the long run, you'll use many different regimens. How do you plan effectively?

You and your health care professional should design a personal treatment strategy. You'll need to look at the overall picture and develop a regimen based on your needs and your condition at different times. A regimen should be chosen based on several factors:

- Efficacy (effectiveness, how well it works)
- Tolerability (safety, risk of side effects)
- Convenience (how well the dosing fits with your lifestyle)
- Drug interactions (whether it can be used with other medications you may be taking)

- Sequencing (the expectation that there will be another drug to turn to as your needs change)

Only by taking into consideration **all** the criteria can an effective, long-term HIV treatment strategy be developed.

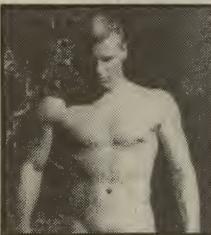
What Can You Do Now...?

The most important thing **you** can do is to take an active role in your treatment. You are your own best advocate. Ask questions. Work with your health care professional in making educated choices to develop an effective treatment strategy for the long term. Make the commitment to take your medication exactly as prescribed and stick to it. Plan for a healthy lifestyle incorporating proper nutrition and exercise. Be aware of current research results and new trends in treatment. Seek the support of family and friends, health care professionals, AIDS Service Organizations and other institutions. The time has never been better to map your own strategy and plan for the future.



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AIDS Office rules in SF sex clubs

by Liz Highleyman

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) AIDS Office on February 21 sent letters to sex clubs in the city, informing them that a new set of "minimum standards" is now in effect, and inspections will begin shortly.

In the letter, AIDS Office Director Dr. Mitchell Katz stated that "San Francisco is committed to protecting the health and safety of the public by ensuring that businesses are operating in compliance with all city codes and regulations, and that they do not permit sexual activity that places patrons at increased risk for HIV."

Katz went on to state that "the city will take legal action to close sex clubs and parties that violate city codes and/or operate in a manner which contributes to the spread of HIV and STD [sexually transmitted disease]," and that "no action will be taken" against clubs and parties that are in compliance. Katz outlined a coordinated inspection process in which announced joint inspections by the health, fire, and building departments will be carried out for all sex clubs and parties. In addition, DPH staff "will continue to make regular visits, both announced and unannounced" to ensure that sex clubs and parties follow DPH standards regarding sexual activity. Katz stated that the city would work with club and party operators to "resolve any issues" regarding compliance, but that "clubs may have to close or limit their operation" if violations exist.

Minimum Standards

The DPH's "Minimum Standards for Operation of Sex Clubs and Parties" state that unprotected anal and vaginal intercourse and fisting "have been identified as posing an unreasonable risk for HIV transmission and therefore are prohibited in all sex clubs and parties"; there is, in fact, no evidence to show that fisting increases HIV risk. In addition, the standards suggest that club owners "recommend" that patrons not engage in unprotected oral sex, rimming, fingering, or sharing of sex toys.

The standards further specify that clubs must provide condoms, lubricants, gloves, plastic or latex barriers, and safer sex educational materials. All areas of the club "must be monitored on a regular and ongoing basis by staff" — at least one time every 20 minutes — and staff "must intervene immediately to stop activities if patrons are engaging in prohibited sexual activities." Clubs must be sufficiently well-lit to allow monitoring and may not have locking booths or rooms, or rooms that cannot be viewed from the outside.

The new regulations were adapted from voluntary standards developed by the Coalition for Healthy Sex (CHS). The CHS began to modify their standards two years ago when Supervisor Tom Ammiano approached the group for assistance in developing legislation to regulate sex clubs. At the time, the majority of CHS members supported legislation, believing that it would provide legitimacy and shield the clubs from arbitrary harassment by city officials. In November, Katz announced that Mayor Willie Brown

had withdrawn his support for the legislation and that regulations would instead be implemented by the DPH.

If the legislation had gone forward, an opportunity for public comment would have been mandatory. As it stands, the DPH is not required to solicit public input, and has not done so as of this date. It is the position of the AIDS Office that the CHS meetings at which the regulations were discussed were in fact a venue for public comment; CHS meetings are open to the public, but until recently have not been publicized. Many in the gay community have expressed outrage that the city would put through regulations without public input, and various activist groups have formulated plans to prevent the DPH from carrying out their new policy.

The establishments that received the DPH letter during the "first round" are Blow Buddies, the Campus Theatre, Castro Party/Black House, Circle J Cinema, EROS, the "14th Street House," Mack, Power Exchange Main Station and Substation, the Sling, and the Tearoom Theatre. Regulation opponents had complained previously that sex club were selectively targeted while establishments such as theaters, bookstores, and hot tub facilities were ignored. All of the venues that received letters cater to a primarily gay clientele, except for the Power Exchange Substation, which attracts a mixed bisexual/transgender/heterosexual/leather crowd. ▼

For another perspective on sex club inspections, see the Guest Opinion on page 8.

SFGH to provide 'morning-after' pill

by Lidia Wasowicz,
UPI Science Writer

Researchers at San Francisco General Hospital announced Monday, February 28 they plan to begin testing a "morning-after" pill for HIV in the next couple of months.

The aim of the study will be to determine whether the treatment can do for AIDS what the "morning-after" pill does for pregnancy

— prevent the consequences of one night of bad luck or unsafe behavior.

Participants would be healthy individuals exposed to the deadly virus during one incident of risky sex. They would be given a 30-day supply of AZT and 3TC in hopes of preventing infection.

AIDS prevention experts express concern that the therapy could blow the lid off the long-sought trend toward restrained behavior that has, in part, been

credited for the first decrease in AIDS deaths since the epidemic began. But the researchers say if the strategy saves lives, it's worth the gamble.

The experiment — to see whether a brew of AIDS-fighting drugs the morning after an isolated incident of unsafe sex or broken condom can prevent the virus from taking its deadly hold — has its roots in the promising results of recent studies.

Those studies of similar prophylactic therapy given to healthcare workers accidentally stuck by HIV-contaminated needles indicate a 30-day course of the anti-viral drug AZT dramatically reduced the chance of infection.

Tom Coates, director of the AIDS Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, says, "If there is a way we can prevent somebody from getting infected, we should."

The San Francisco Health Department hopes to get federal approval and dollars for the trial within two months. Participants will receive a combination of the anti-viral drugs AZT and 3TC. Thousands more would have to test the treatment to determine if it really works, but the San Francisco study could provide data on how often isolated exposures take place, how quickly patients would get treatment, and how many would actually agree to the 30-day regimen. ▼

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The Castro set to invade the Castro

by Claudia Figueroa

San Franciscans will have a chance to learn about the fascinating history of the world's most famous gay and lesbian neighborhood Saturday, March 15, when KQED-TV Channel 9 will broadcast the third in its series, "Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco," focusing on the Castro area. But for those people who have to be on the cutting edge, and simply cannot wait that long, KQED will host a private benefit party and big-screen showing at the most appropriate place - the Castro Theatre - Thursday, March 13.

David Shaw, director of communications at KQED, explained to the *Bay Area Reporter* that the 90-minute documentary, which will feature chronicled vintage photographs and film clips, is being underwritten by a unique

multi-level campaign organized by the public television station. The campaign, modeled in no small part on the San Francisco Public Library's efforts to raise funding for its new gay and lesbian center, has already raised 70% of the video's production costs.

In addition, KQED is asking for donations from anyone who would like to attend the big-screening gala. The station is specifically encouraging residents of the Castro district to take part in this spectacular event and share in the film's success.

According to organizers, the Castro Theatre event will feature traditional organ music preceding the show, and comedian Sabrina Matthews will perform stand-up skits. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres donated by Fire Wood Cafe, Ryan's Restaurant, Zuni Cafe, Absolut Vodka, Crystal Geyser Water Company, and DeLoach Vineyards will be presented to guests.

Catering services will also be provided by Grace Street Catering.

Emmy Award-winning producer Peter L. Stein, who served as producer, director, and writer for the film, said it required a lot of research, development, and production time. "Like most momentous projects, this film took nine months giving birth to it. Quite naturally, I feel relieved," Stein told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It's a dramatic story that happened in our midst and to our community. I am happy to be able to tell it."

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. and will last through most of the evening. Peter Stein will be available for questions preceding the show. Tickets for the event start at \$50 per person, which includes a basic KQED membership. For more information on tickets and donations, call (415) 553-2150.

AIDS Nightline needs volunteers, training session starts March 13

by Cynthia Laird

Volunteers are needed for the AIDS/HIV Nightline, the only telephone service of its kind in the country that provides emotional support and peer counseling nightly for all HIV concerns. Ralph Shanabruich, volunteer coordinator for the hotline, said training will start on Thursday, March 13.

"We're in desperate need of 12 to 15 volunteers," Shanabruich told the *B.A.R.* "The biggest challenge is getting people who are available to work at night."

Nighttime is when the service is provided; from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. every night, he said. Volunteers answer approximately 900 calls a month from those who are worried, sick, or dying. The majority of calls are from people in the Bay

Area, but the nightline also receives calls from people throughout the country.

Shanabruich said people interested in volunteering should be good listeners and be able to relate to others with a sense of caring and understanding. Volunteers are asked to commit to working a few nighttime hours each month.

The Nightline is a program of San Francisco Suicide Prevention. It is funded through the city's Department of Public Health AIDS Office and through contributions from numerous corporate foundations and companies. ▶

Interested people should call the Nightline's business office at (415) 984-1902 and leave a message for Ralph Shanabruich or Dave. The AIDS/HIV Nightline's numbers are: (415)

434-AIDS in San Francisco and outside California; (800) 273-AIDS in Northern California; (415) 781-2228 or (800) 303-SIDA (Spanish); and (415) 781-2228 (TTY).

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HRC rules against Cafe in het kissing incident

by Cynthia Laird

In a highly unusual ruling, San Francisco's Human Rights Commission (HRC) issued a Director's Finding against The Cafe on Tuesday, February 25, citing the popular gay and lesbian bar with violating city anti-discrimination laws. The case stemmed from an incident last year where four people were kicked out of The Cafe because two of them - a man and a woman - were kissing. It is unusual in that a gay man who was with the opposite-sex pair was the person who filed the complaint.

Damon Jacobs contacted HRC about the incident last September 13 and described the incident that occurred on August 11, 1996, when he and three friends, Tara Sanderson, Christopher Macias, and Rob Cox, were forced to leave The Cafe after Sanderson and Cox were seen kissing. Jacobs also alleged The Cafe's policy against public displays of affection discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation because it is applied only to opposite-sex couples, and that the policy was publicly expressed in a letter written by Morgan Gorrono, manager at The Cafe.

Gorrono said he's frustrated with HRC's finding, particularly since the complainant, Jacobs, is gay. Gorrono said he frequently gets complaints from his gay and lesbian customers when men and women kiss or grope one another at the establishment.

He speculated that opposite-sex couples continue to come to The Cafe because the Muni F Line trolley drops passengers off "right behind the bar."

"It's usually a guy and a girl looking for a three-way," Gorrono said, offering his take on why opposite-sex couples come into the bar.

"This is ridiculous," he said of HRC's finding. "The thing was that drunk people were getting kicked out of the bar."

"It's defeating us. We have problems with too many straight people in the bar. I get four to five complaints a night from gay customers."

Countered Jacobs, "My response is we don't serve each other well by violating the law."

No touching, now

In a letter that was published in the September 19, 1996 Bay Area Reporter, Gorrono stated the club's "policy on straight people making out ... will not change ... If they don't like it, they can leave. This is a gay bar, and they are the guests of our community."

Reached Monday, March 3, Gorrono has apparently changed that policy, saying, "We have a 'no touch' policy for everybody." He said he refuses to post that policy, as HRC staff proposed during attempts to mediate the complaint.

Gorrono also said he plans to meet or contact HRC staff now that the finding has been issued. He did not respond to numerous calls and letters sent to him by HRC before the finding was issued.

Because The Cafe is a private business and does not have a contract with the city, HRC staff member Cynthia Goldstein said the HRC can only issue a finding

"when mediation fails and there's evidence of discrimination." She said HRC staff would be happy to work with The Cafe in the future regarding the discrimination finding.

This type of decision is rarely issued in cases that involve allegations of discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV, or gender identity issues, Goldstein said.

"I've worked at the HRC for six and a half years, and this is the first time I've ever had to issue a finding," Goldstein told the B.A.R. "In complaints around sexual orientation, HIV, and gender identity, this is only the second finding in over six years. It's extremely unusual."

Jacobs didn't expect to file the complaint; initially, he and his friends thought there had been a misunderstanding that could be quickly resolved with an apology from The Cafe. That did not happen. His friends totally supported his decision to go to the HRC. Sanderson has since returned to her home in Australia; Cox and Macias live in the city.

Goldstein attempted to engage in mediation with both Gorrono and The Cafe's owner, Porchai Hutachinda. Since The Cafe "refused to engage in mediation, HRC director Marivic S. Bamba issued this finding," the HRC report stated.

The HRC found The Cafe "denied full and equal access to its business establishment." The ruling also stated The Cafe violated a section of the San Francisco's Municipal Code when it printed its discriminatory policy that "... full enjoyment ... would be unlawfully refused to individuals because of their sexual orientation."

According to the HRC finding, Gorrono failed to follow through last October on a proposed resolution that included issuing an apology to the four individuals; revising The Cafe's policy to comply with city law; having a letter printed in the B.A.R.; and allowing the revised policy to be posted in a public place at the business.

I got upset

According to The Cafe's side of the story, which Gorrono outlined both in his letter last September

and in a phone call with HRC staff, a bartender refused to serve Sanderson and Cox a drink because Sanderson could not stop laughing and because the bartender determined that the two had enough to drink. Gorrono stated that this was explained to Jacobs by the bartender, and at that moment, Sanderson and Cox started kissing.

The couple was asked to stop, and The Cafe's "straight couple make-out" policy was explained. An argument ensued before a bouncer asked Jacobs, Sanderson, Cox, and Macias to leave. Jacobs wrote a note to Gorrono the next day asking for an apology. The Cafe refused to apologize.

Gorrono recalled a phone conversation he had with Goldstein and admitted he became angry as they talked. "I got upset with her. I get a lot more complaints from gay customers."

Mariah Hanson, manager of the Girl's Spot, a weekly dance club, sympathized with Gorrono and said she has also asked heterosexual couples not to kiss in her club.

"Eight out of ten times it's the lesbians bringing in the straight men," she said. "I get complaints there are too many straight people and too many men, and it gets difficult."

"Whose needs do you respond to?"

But, she said, "Have I ever kicked anyone out? No."

Jacobs told the B.A.R. that he's happy with the HRC finding, and never saw the matter as a gay or straight issue.

"It's a human rights issue," said Jacobs. "What does this say about The Cafe's attitude towards the bisexual community? Where do bisexuals fit in terms of our [gay] businesses?"

Jacobs contends that HRC's finding that The Cafe denied full and equal access to customers and published a policy that violates city law leaves the business "wide open" to a lawsuit.

But, he said, "I have no interest in personally pursuing that. I like to think of our community as progressive and tolerant." ▼

Info sought on Castro robbery suspect

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco police are circulating a poster throughout the Castro district, seeking information from gay or bisexual victims of a robber who they say was criminally active in the gay community until his recent arrest.

Elliot Phillips was re-booked on robbery and other charges on February 24, officials told the B.A.R. He pled guilty to one felony count of assault likely to create great bodily injury at his preliminary hearing Wednesday, March 5.

Phillips is described by law enforcement officials as a very muscular 36-year-old African-American male, standing 6 feet tall and weighing 200 pounds. Investigators allege he met his gay and bisexual victims in bars or on the street and later robbed them, either at their homes or elsewhere.

"I think it is important for the community to be concerned about this kind of predator," said District Attorney spokesman John Shanley. He urged anyone who was victimized by Phillips, or who has information on his alleged crimes, to contact DA Investigator Charlie Munoz at (415) 553-1030, or SFPD Robbery Inspector Stephen Tittel at (415) 553-1201. ▼

Muni driver gets probation for bashing

by Dennis Conkin

Anti-violence experts and prosecutors are denouncing Superior Judge John Berman's decision that allowed Muni Railway driver Wardy Joubert to enter a surprise plea of no contest to felony assault and hate crime charges, in exchange for three years probation and a possible community service penalty.

Joubert was charged with assaulting Muni passenger Sonny Vukic last July, while both men were passengers on a 4 Sutter bus. Joubert was off duty, but dressed in a Muni Railway uniform, at the time.

Berman suggested and the defense accepted the open court plea during a pre-trial conference in Berman's chambers Thursday, February 27, over the objections of Deputy District Attorney Maria Bee.

Berman entered the no contest pleas as guilty pleas, and ordered a probation report pending Joubert's sentencing in Superior Court March 27.

Although prosecutor Bee declined to comment publicly on Berman's decision, Deputy District Attorney Chuck Haines expressed "serious concern" over the disposition of the case — and bluntly said that Joubert belonged behind bars.

"We want him to go to state prison because of the outrageous nature of this act," Haines said. "The public at large is very concerned about the problem of vio-

lence on Muni. Although he was not driving the bus, he was a bus driver wearing a uniform, and his motive was a hate crime. This makes it doubly outrageous."

Where are your morals?

According to eyewitnesses to the June attack, Vukic and his lover were riding together and briefly kissed when the pair "faggots" and made anti-gay religious statements such as, "Don't you read the Bible?" and "Where are your morals?"

Witnesses also said that after Vukic told him to shut up, Joubert said that he had the authority to order the gay men off the bus, challenged Vukic to a fight, repeatedly slugged the victim, and injured Vukic's leg by grabbing and twisting it in an effort to pull him from his seat.

The driver of the bus, who refused to stop the vehicle or intervene in the incident, also faces disciplinary action because of his inadequate response to a physical attack on a passenger.

Although he suffered no broken bones in the attack, Vukic suffered physical injuries, including continuing spinal disc problems, according to his attorney Thomas Ray, and will probably be unable to practice his manipulative physical therapy profession.

Vukic also suffered psychic and emotional trauma during the anti-gay attack, said Ray.

Hate violence experts charge that Berman's decision trivializes anti-gay violence and sends the wrong message to individuals who commit such crimes.

In a stinging public rebuke, Community United Against Violence Executive Director Lester Olmstead-Rose called Berman's decision "irresponsible and incredibly inappropriate."

Olmstead-Rose said that individuals who acted violently against lesbians and gays "deserved to be off the street" for the public safety, and said that the community, as well as Vukic, had been victimized by the assault.

"He attacked these victims without provocation," Olmstead-Rose pointed out. "Clearly, the judge does not understand that hate violence is not the same as other kinds of assault. The judge is way off line."

Although the attack happened last July, Joubert was not relieved of his driving duties and assigned a desk job until last December 13, when the *Bay Area Reporter* raised policy questions about his assignment as a floater driver assigned to any Muni line as needed.

Joubert's status as a Municipal Railway employee is in doubt at B.A.R. press time.

"It is not Muni's policy to hire or retain an employee who has been convicted of these violent felonies," said Muni communications manager Sharyn Saslawsky. "Muni is considering all of its disciplinary options, up to and including termination." ▼

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Bus bashers, birthday bashes

It's rather disturbing to find out hate crimes are more acceptable in San Francisco than in North Carolina. Without meaning to offend our friends from the south, the perception has always been that we are more tolerant here – tolerant, that is, of just about everything but intolerance. This is the place, supposedly, that can handle people whose prejudices are larger than their brains.

Unfortunately, a couple of recent court decisions show that is not always the case.

Last week, shortly after a North Carolina jury found a skinhead ex-soldier named James Burmeister guilty of murdering people just because they happened to be black – and found him guilty so swiftly and decisively it helped soothe some of that of O.J. Simpson irritation – a San Francisco judge suggested probation for Muni driver Wardy Joubert, who assaulted a passenger just because he happened to be gay. It's an outrage.

Obviously, there are differences in the two cases: Burmeister shot people to death; Joubert pummeled his victim, but left him alive. Burmeister also planned his attacks, whereas Joubert was just followed a sudden evil urge. Considering the differences, different sentences are obviously called for. Nobody is suggesting Joubert spend the rest of his life behind bars, but probation for his heinous crime is not acceptable in any way.

Part of the problem is that the judge in Joubert's case, John Berman, was a temp. These days special programs are needed to help move things along through the clogged courts, one of which brings retired judges like Berman back to the bench to hear cases. In this case – as in a lot of others, we suspect – it turned out to be a fiasco.

Berman's action reinforces the ideas that gay and lesbian victims are to blame for their problems, or that their injuries are somehow less injurious. That's the way people in the Deep South once perceived African-American victims, and it's encouraging to see in Burmeister's case the prevailing mood has changed: we are very disappointed to find such appalling lack of awareness here.

Education is clearly the key to change. Although it is too late to do anything about Joubert's case, we hope that Berman has noticed the furious reaction to his decision and that he thinks more clearly before he suggests such a thing again. But even more important is education at Muni. Three days after Joubert got probation, passengers charged another Muni driver with being ho-

mophobic and abusive (verbally, rather than physically, and while that's better, it still isn't good). Joubert's probation probably didn't prompt the latest incident, but it certainly didn't discourage it in any way, either.

Muni has met with Community United Against Violence, recognizing that there are problems with employee bigotry. We hope CUAV is able to get the situation in hand, and quickly. Gay and lesbian riders, who after all pay the same fare as everyone else, deserve the same courtesy and ought to be secure in the knowledge they don't have to fear drivers.

A new topic: Newly-released statistics show what most gay people have noticed for some time: AIDS mortality is dropping. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala promptly made an ass of herself, bragging her head off on camera. Her statements about this Administration's "commitment ... paying off" made it sound as though protease inhibitors were created from a Shalala family recipe, whipped up and boiled down by Bill and Hillary's own hands – and if she had made that assertion it wouldn't, frankly, have sounded any less absurd than her claim about this notoriously uncommitted Administration's "commitment."

If anyone deserves credit, we'd say it is

the people of ACT UP, and the people who have supported their work in the ten years since the group was formed. We are lucky and proud to have ACT UP/Golden Gate working for people with AIDS here in San Francisco (with benefits evident for people around the world). They have pressed for more pharmaceutical research, and more access to people who might otherwise be priced out of the market for lifesaving drugs. They, not Shalala, have saved lives.

This Monday, March 10, ACT UP/Golden Gate (which is not affiliated in any way with the group that calls itself ACT UP/San Francisco) will be marking the birthday with a spaghetti feed fundraiser. We'll be there, and we expect to see most of the people we know. Whether you are on the new life-extending medicines, or only know people whose drugs have returned their futures to them, you owe a lot to ACT UP – certainly more than the ten bucks it costs to attend the benefit dinner. Since everyone can't possibly be there, signed notes from your mother won't be necessary to get excused. But a nice check made out to the group would be very helpful. Send it to ACT UP/Golden Gate, 519 Castro Street, Box 93, San Francisco CA 94114.

Otherwise, we'll see you there. ▼

Editorial



Sex club inspector needs inspecting

by Edward B. Goehring

am shocked to hear that Building Inspector Rafael Torres-Gil would be involved in the inspections of sex clubs being organized by the Health Department. I was present in Judge Cahill's court on November 15 when Mr. Torres-Gil told the court that it was imperative that the judge effectively close the Power Exchange sex club at 74 Otis immediately because it was unsafe. Mr. Torres-Gil claimed that there had been numerous safety problems in the club for over a year, including "electrical equipment blocking fire exits" (during a subsequent inspection this "electrical equipment" turned out to be a small water cooler in a corner of a hallway).

Mr. Torres-Gil couldn't explain to the judge why the ongoing problem was suddenly so critical, except to assert that there was a large event scheduled there for the upcoming weekend. Torres-Gil said that the city would be liable if there were a disaster at this big event.

To support his contention that the building was unsafe, Torres-Gil stated that the building at 74 Otis was built of unreinforced masonry, although it turns out that no tests of the building had been performed to determine this. It also turns out that the

club that Mr. Torres-Gil claimed had been operating in spite of safety violations for well over a year has only been in business for a few months and has never heard about Mr. Torres-Gil's apparent feud with the former tenant.

Mr. Torres-Gil supplied the court with other misinformation, stating that there were no records to indicate that 74 Otis had ever held anything like a thousand occupants when Pac Bell owned the building (as the present owner claimed). The owner of the building promptly produced copies of Building Department records showing an occupancy of nearly a thousand.

During a recess in court Mr. Torres-Gil sat next to me, and I asked him where he had gotten the information that there was a big event planned for the weekend. He replied that he "couldn't recall where" he'd heard about the event. "Maybe I heard it from the police," was his next guess.

I pointed out that he had just asked a Municipal Court Judge to close a man's business indefinitely based on "facts" whose source he "couldn't remember" or wasn't sure of. He replied, "I guess I did."

I informed him that there was no event

such as he had described (I had met with the owner of Power Exchange a few days previously and had seen his events calendar, which showed only a private fundraiser event for 30 people on the weekend in question). Torres-Gil made no move to inform either the judge or the Deputy City Attorney bringing the action against 74 Otis that his statement was false or even in question. This conversation, in which he shrugged off giving false information to the court, was witnessed by numerous people in the courtroom.

According to some sources in the Building Department, Inspector Rafael Torres-Gil is pushing to close all the sex clubs on technical grounds.

For additional details on his past activities I would refer you to the owner of Daddy's bar in the Castro, Building Commissioner Jaime Sonbanmatsu, Mike Housh at Ammiano's office, and Dean Goodwin at the Mayor's office.

I believe Mr. Torres-Gil is using his official position to advance his homophobic personal agenda. Given his record, his involvement in efforts directed at mostly-gay sex clubs is an outrage that needs to be addressed promptly. ▼

Guest Opinion



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LETTERS

Bombed by the Far Wrong

Which large group hates abortion clinics and queers and feminist women?

It's not "straight males" as a class – rather, it's the highly-organized minority who worked overtime to defeat ERA: the "theo-fascists," allegedly Christian, who twist the cross into a swastika. (Note: These killers don't represent most Christians, any more than J. Edgar Hoover represented most of my fellow fags.)

But the big question isn't "Whodunit?" The big one, a definite brain-strainer, is "How can we best resist?" Two possibilities: A) Queer papers could interview public-safety advocates who want to make bomb materials easier to trace. B) Lavender groups could seek alliances with birth-control and abortion providers, since we and they both receive bombs and bullets from the Far Wrong.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
Berkeley, CA

Excellent forum on sex clubs

I want to publicly thank the Stop AIDS Project for hosting an excellent community forum on the topic of sex clubs and bathhouses this past Saturday. The heavily attended forum was superbly organized, well-moderated, and promoted with skill and sensitivity.

Now let us hope that the message sent loud and clear by the gay community members attending that forum reaches the ears of Dr. Katz and the city's AIDS Office – halt the ban on private spaces in our city's sex establishments and re-focus on HIV prevention education, not on controlling and policing the sex lives of San Francisco's gay men.

Race Bannon
San Francisco

Mailstrom**PEP talk**

I found your recent series on PEP [post-exposure prophylaxis] most interesting and timely, and would like to add my thoughts:

First it was about private spaces, now it is about the "morning after" pill (post-exposure prophylaxis). Not surprisingly, Stop AIDS and the DPH's AIDS Office were quick to re-establish their all-too-familiar paternalistic and authoritarian positions. Their immediate response of "now these queens will have even more unsafe sex than before" is tired, insulting, condescending, and disempowering – scarcely a useful foundation for education or cooperation. As Don Howard so capably pointed out, their entire approach is all-too-obviously based on the notion that we gay people are too irresponsible to manage our own sexual activities and that we need these self-styled "experts" to observe, direct, and control us.

Probably the clearest parallel to this perspective is our country's historical approach to unplanned teenage pregnancy (which also stems from unprotected sex and which also creates financial and health problems for the involved individuals and society at large). How well have logical, moral, or religious arguments, threats, fears, taboos, ignorance, and adult "supervision" worked in pregnancy control? Attempts to chaperon (monitor) all opposite-gender activities; to scare kids with stories about STDs, broken hearts, and the "shame" of pregnancy; to keep them ignorant about their own bodies and feelings and power; to make birth control and abortion difficult to obtain – these have brought us to now celebrate the highest rate of unplanned teen pregnancy in the industrialized world. There is no reason to believe that using this same bankrupt and outmoded strategy to "prevent AIDS" will work any better. Katz seems to suggest even further that PEP, once an effective protocol is established, be provided only for those who promise "never to do it again." Would he withhold PEP treatment from someone who is not "repentant?"

If the goal of Stop AIDS and the AIDS Project is actually to minimize HIV seroconversion, these agencies would be wise to laud and support the possibility of developing an effective PEP and would be using a risk-management/harm-reduction model that has a possibility of increasing the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, rather than the moralistic, unrealistic, and reactionary "zero-tolerance" posture where they seem to be stuck. It is counterproductive, high-handed, alienating, and ineffectual for "big brother" in the guise of any agency to attempt to control the sex lives of its citizens by spying on them and otherwise attempting to limit their privacy, withholding medical information and treatment, keeping them ignorant of scientific data by providing only agency conclusions, and consistently insulting and demeaning citizens' judgment and sense of responsibility – all the while spending these same citizens' tax money to do so. Enough!

Suggested reading:

Walt Odets: *In the Shadow of the Epidemic*
Eric Rofes: *Reviving the Tribe*
Dangerous Bedfellows: *Policing Public Sex*

Steve Johnson, RN, PHN
San Francisco

Positive reinforcement

[The following is an open letter to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Stop AIDS Project.]

Over the years, thousands of us have contributed time and money to support your efforts to stop the spread of the HIV virus. We have learned much from your educational and outreach activities, and we now know that most unsafe sex occurs in private homes.

Now, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is proposing regulations that require monitoring of gay men's sexual behavior in sex clubs and prevent establishments from providing private spaces. What is your organization's official position with respect to these regulations?

Most successful behavior modification approaches emphasize positive reinforcement, self-respect and individual responsibility. Why then is the SFDPH proposing regulations affecting gay men that focus on negative reinforcement: monitoring, lack of trust, lack of self-respect, and absence of personal responsibility? By restricting the locations of our bedrooms, are we really reaching out to the very sexually active people who may need our services most? Wouldn't we be more successful by reaching out to men in a bathhouse setting and seizing the opportunity to educate and empower them to navigate safely in private spaces?

Are there any studies that indicate that the policing of people's sexual activity has any significant impact in lowering the spread of the HIV virus? Has prohibition ever produced meaningful results? As our community continues its battle with the HIV virus, we should carefully review how we donate our limited resources of volunteer time and dollars, and continue to support organizations that provide sex education in an accurate, understandable, effective, sex positive, and non-judgmental manner to as many people as possible.

Is your mission one of education and personal empowerment or one of monitoring and policing? I request that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Stop AIDS Project publicly respond to the SFDPH-proposed regulations policing gay men's sexual behavior.

Richard Carrazza
San Francisco

Cross of iron

In a speech last month (January 1997) before the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Congressman Ron Dellums described the fallacies of our national-security state. Congressman Dellums declared that \$200 billion should be cut from our military-industrial complex. The B2 bomber, designed for the Cold War, is obsolete. The 600 new fighters for the Air Force are not needed, nor does the Navy require – at enormous cost – additional carrier task-force systems. The Russians have cut down their military-industrial complex by 80%. We should now initiate with Russian assistance, the START III talks in order to reduce stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

In its 1997 analysis of the current U.S. war budget, the War Resisters League, a peace organization based in New York, points out that the price tag for the Navy's LHD-7 amphibious assault ship is an astounding \$1,300 million. Decades ago, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued his famous warning:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. ... This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

Mrs. Constance E. Kuruppu
San Francisco

Men's club

If Wayne Friday is right – and seldom is he wrong – it looks like the East Bay's Demo Congressman Ellen Tauscher, who recently defeated the gentlemanly Republican Bill Baker, may face 49er tight end Brent Jones in 1998. It matters not to me that, as Friday notes, Jones is a "conservative, evangelical Christian." What counts is that he is both Republican and a man!

At the risk of being called a misogynist, it is about time that government at all levels be turned over to those most capable of governing – men (and GOP dudes at that).

Women make excellent teachers, scientists, physicians, journalists, editors, druggists and cookie-bakers. But, when it comes to government (and its adjuncts including the bench and the criminal justice system), well, let men do the jobs for which they are by nature suited (and this includes the military). Go for it, Jones!

Macbeth
San Francisco

[Editor's note: You risk being called more than a misogynist.]

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Poetic license plate

The other night on Highway 680, I spotted somebody deserving of a mention in the B.A.R. It was a new pickup with the name "Big Ed" on the tailgate. The license plate frame read "BLOW ME THEN LEAVE." Big Ed, where are you?

Willard Newton
Orinda, CA

Halloween production notes

I must take some issue with the article about CUAV and Halloween that began on page 5 of today's [Feb. 13] B.A.R. In the third to last paragraph on page 11, you state that CUAV began patrolling the street in 1990 to secure the safety of the participants, and that the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. (SPI,I) started providing entertainment the following year in association with CUAV. This is incorrect. In 1991 SPI,I not only produced the entertainment, but in actuality produced the whole event, from obtaining the street closure permit to securing the porta-potties. The only thing CUAV provided was a yearly stipend of seed money, that the Chorus also provided. The majority of the initial funds came from the Sisters. CUAV also provided security for the event.

However, in the last year that SPI,I produced the event, CUAV, who had agreed to provide 150-200 security volunteers, only had 5-10 people show up. Those that did show up told many of us that the "powers-that-be" at CUAV had told them since they were unable to secure all of the volunteers needed, that they would not guarantee the safety of the volunteers that decided to show up anyway. This was the last year that SPI,I agreed to produce the event. We are a group based on democratic principals, and as a result the majority of the members themselves no longer felt safe attending or producing the event.

It is not surprising to this Nun that CUAV lost money this year. What is surprising to me is that a group dedicated to preventing violence against members of our community would agree to create a function that was very clearly pushed as a heterosexual alternative to the Castro Halloween Celebration. Rather than trying to herd all of "them" up in one location, wouldn't it be more respectful to our community to demand protection and safety from the group that is charged with that duty, the San Francisco Police Department?

The last year that SPI,I produced the Halloween event, not only did CUAV fail in its commitment to our community, but so did the San Francisco Police Department. The strike against the San Francisco Newspaper Agency was to start at midnight that same night, and we heard from several officers that a department decision had been made to cover that event instead of the Castro Halloween Celebration. The few police I personally saw patrolling the streets were doing the best job they could, but with close to 450,000 people and only a handful of officers, it was ludicrous to think that violence would not occur. Several of my Sisters who were working the gates that evening were subjected to homophobic violence.

Enough of my ranting. But, perhaps as a condition of a "bail out" by the city, CUAV should agree that they are not a entertainment production company and agree to step out of the picture.

Sr. Pigmentia Stigmata, F.P.M.
San Francisco

Asking for clarification

Some of your readers have expressed their displeasure with a B.A.R. article which refers to Steve Peskind as a Buddhist leader, and in which Mr. Peskind calls on the Dalai Lama to address the issue of homosexuality. I have no doubt that Mr. Peskind did not ask to be called a Buddhist leader. In fact, I am quite certain that such a title makes him feel uncomfortable. But the fact remains that over the years, Mr. Peskind has played an important role in American Buddhism, particularly in his commendable work as a caregiver.

Mr. Peskind has shown leadership, as well as compassion, by co-founding Coming Home Hospice, the Shanti Project, several service organizations in Orange County, and the Buddhist AIDS Project. He is also currently teaching Buddhist classes on dying and preparing an important Buddhist anthology.

Believing that harm will arise from a recent Buddhist publication (*Beyond Dogma*) which proscribes homosexual acts, Mr. Peskind has asked the Dalai Lama for clarification on the issue. Mr. Peskind was not the first to ask for such clarification; it has been sought repeatedly since 1993. By raising the issue once again, however, Mr. Peskind clearly hopes to stop the harmful effects of *Beyond Dogma*. That is precisely the action one would expect from a man who is fulfilling his Bodhisattva vows.

To his credit, Mr. Peskind has asked for the Dalai Lama's comments respectfully, with kindness and good intention, and I think he should be thanked for it.

Scott A. Hunt
San Francisco

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Rainbow over Argentina

We want to inform you about some things of our organization, and we would like you to publish it in your newspaper.

Our name is Colectivo Arco Iris (Rainbow Collective). We work on sexuality, AIDS, and discrimination based in sexual orientation.

In these three years of existence we have been helped always by the gay community of San Francisco, we always remember that.

We also want to emphasize our relations with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the International Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Commission, specially Mrs. Mirka Negroni. And don't want to forget the assistance of many years from Mr. Horacio Maiorana.

We still need all the help in all the ways that anyone can give to us. We often do all kind of activities to get money, but our resources are always limited.

So our address is: Presidente Roca 663/ 2000 Rosario/ ARGENTINA, and our phone/fax number: 041 (código de área) 470268.

We live in a country of the third world, so the changes here are very slow, but we are making some real and definitive changes in the life of our gay/lesbian community.

Thank you very much, and we are here for what you would need.

Pedro A. Paradiso, Sub-Director
Guillermo E. Lovagnini, Director
Colectivo Arco Iris
Rosario, Argentina

Mini-Maoist vs. Mickey Maoist

A response to Beth Elliott and her B.A.R. column "Sapphification" of Thursday, February 6, 1997, entitled "Mickey Maoist Club."

Ahh, imagine my delight at the betrayal of your ignorance writ large in verbiage. Thank you for your unconscious disclosure of late. It's truly marvelous to inform such an intense sensory leakage.

Had you a shred of insight into the history, or better yet, scholarship of classes and struggle for class revolution you might have veered from the mistake of popular right wing semantics and conclusions expressed in your column.

When you wrote "politically incorrect," one could presuppose you'd been referring to the CIA and its death squads around the world. No ... you targeted dyke women, predominantly poor women, women working to obtain greater share for women in political, economic and social spheres; those "politically incorrect" folks.

I thought you identified as female, Beth. I must have been mistaken. I'll correct that anomaly in future.

Could you benefit from taking the necessary time researching how the working class secured the eight-hour workday? Are your ancestors among the 40,000 women, children and men who died fighting for your eight-hour day, Beth? Have you ever encountered one of those brave souls standing up to union gangsters; union thugs who thought red-baiting was a form of sport terminated with gunfire ... or do you simply relish the deception of red-baiting lesbians?

When you finally look up from the page, recognize any desire for *laissez-faire* 18th century American Capitalism could only infuse the incipient birthing of the largest imperialist nation in the history of the world. So much for "merit and excellence." Better to acknowledge consciousness of class and realize the theft and rape of a world by your heroes. Elliott, next time be really brave and live the life in the underclass instead of as an entitled white boy, a lifestyle you're so busy maintaining, fortifying and championing.

I used to think someone who'd lived as "male" could don the cloak of "woman" coupled with the belief one is woman and through time, with enough listening, be accepted as a member of the culture of women. How ludicrous. Elliott proves of the folly of such thought. To be accepted by dyke women one must respect dykes, listen to dykes, learn and use the language of dykes. Elliott is a transsexual ranting and raving against women at every turn of phrase and publicly licks the would-be wounds supposedly inflicted by a slandered feminism. Is Elliott's defamation of radical women any different from a screaming male chimp tearing up the jungle impetuously demanding to be recognized for what he is?

Beth, you've failed to understand the culture of women all these years after your transition from "male" to ... "approximate-female." You're still castigating women for your lack of social awareness, training and capacity. You find it easier to blame women you desperately need to be identified with, women who find your behavior repugnant. Elliott ... you embody the consummate importance of a pre-adolescent male impressed with baseball, babes, and beer more than a soul concerned with kinship and ... women of a dyke caste.

Happy Trails ...

Tala Bernstein
San Francisco

Motel Sixteen Hundred

by Wayne Friday

There no end to the continuing revelations about **Bill Clinton** using the Lincoln Bedroom (sleepovers), Air Force One, the Blue Room (coffee and pastries), the Oval Office, etc. to raise big bucks for the Democratic Party, not to mention his own recent re-election? Hey, both parties know no boundaries when it comes to raising money for campaigns, but Clinton seems to have broken new ground in cashing in on his incumbent status.

Not that The Man From Hope is the first president to reward big-buck supporters with a White House Bed and Breakfast stay — far from it. As for the famed Lincoln Bedroom (which apparently needed to be restocked after Willie Brown slept there), the fact is that **Abe Lincoln** never slept there (his wife did buy the furniture, however), but did sign the Emancipation Proclamation in that room in 1863. Yet being invited to sleep in the so-called "Lincoln Bedroom" seems to be the high point of a White House sleep-over. And besides,

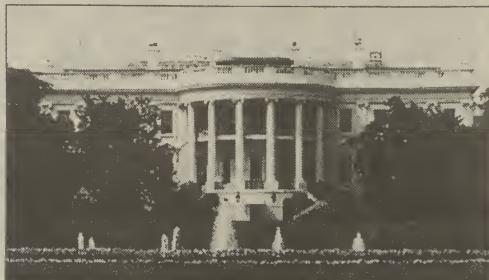
Our Man Friday

Churchill did sleep there, and for my money, that is as good as having had **Mary Todd** and Honest Abe doing the wild thing behind its doors.

Seriously, the unending stories of President Clinton actually making a list of \$50,000 and \$100,000 contributors ("overnighters" as the Prez refers to them) to be entertained at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. are beginning to make Bubba look a bit more like **Richard M. Nixon** (or **Conrad Hilton**) than his teen hero, **John F. Kennedy**. Maybe I'm just a bit jealous because **Willie Brown** and **Frank Jordan** have both slept in Abe's bed (on different nights, natch — Frank was with wife **Wendy Paskin** and not those two disc jockeys) and I haven't, but maybe my invite was lost in the mail. Besides, Mayor Brown complained that the bed was "not terribly comfortable, and you have to step up to get in." Da Mayor made up for these inconveniences by apparently taking everything that wasn't nailed down and could fit in his suitcase. (If Willie ever shows up at your abode with a steamer trunk, watch out!)

Though both Mayors Jordan and Brown claim they weren't strong-armed by Bubba and Co. for checks to the DNC for the honor of sleeping at Motel 1600, most who took part in the White House pajama parties were — sometimes to the tune of \$250,000 per night. But many were more than happy to cough up the big bucks. As one deep-pocketed overnighter put it, "It sure beats the hell out of the Holiday Inn." (Just watch out if they send **Janet Reno** around to evict you when you've overstayed your welcome!)

Even more stupid than this flagrant tackiness was leaving the smoking gun lying around: writing instructions in the president's own handwriting stating that the "honor" of staying overnight with Hillary and himself was to be given to those contributing "\$50,000 to 100,000." Bill is getting careless now that he's in a second term. You're becoming a bit sloppy, Mr. President, and more



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than a little avaricious. Don't let "The buck stops here" become your legacy to the country.

Politics and poker

The interesting political race locally this November will likely be that for city treasurer. Incumbent **Mary Callanan** will run again, and her main opponent will be former Supervisor **Tom Hsieh**. Supervisor **Susan Leal** has decided against joining the fray, and the city's Demo bigwigs will be split between Callanan and Hsieh — with Mayor Brown



likely backing Hsieh, state Senator **John Burton** and Rep. **Nancy Pelosi** supporting Callanan, and other political heavyweights still to be heard from.

The most exclusive club in the world — living Democratic presidents — has only two members, and they barely speak to one another. Those in the know say that **James Earl Carter** and William Jefferson Clinton can't stand each other. Carter, a devout, upright Southern Baptist, is said to have lingering serious questions about Clinton's character (surprise!), and Clinton, the consummate politician, reportedly finds Carter overly rigid and sanctimonious (no!). Friends of both point out that Carter "missed" last year's Demo National Convention and Clinton's second inaugural in January.

Maine, a state where common-sense politics has always prevailed, has two openly homosexual statewide officials. Lesbian state Senator **Dale McCormick** (D) recently became state treasurer, joining openly gay state Auditor **Ed Flanagan**.

And for those who haven't already heard, Travis County, Texas (Austin area) recently elected **Margo Frasier**, a lawyer and former jail supervisor (and a well-known lesbian), as its first woman sheriff.

President Bill Clinton, after hearing the CDC report that for the first time since the AIDS pandemic began, deaths have declined 13% nationwide, declared, "This good news is further evidence that this terrible epidemic is beginning to yield to our sustained national public health investment in AIDS research, prevention and care. But we must not relax our efforts. We must remember that every person who is living with HIV or AIDS is someone's son or daughter, brother or sister, parent or grandparent."

Bad news for state Republicans: their new state chair, **Michael Schroeder** of Orange County, is apparently even more conservative than past chair **John Herrington**. Schroeder is heavily involved in the efforts of **Bob Dornan** to win back his congress-

sional seat. This should give moderate Republicans an idea as to where Schroeder wants to take their party.

In Geneva last week, a delegation of gays and lesbians pressed Swiss officials to ensure that gays get some portion of a new \$71 million humanitarian fund for needy victims of the Holocaust. The meeting in the Swiss capital, Berne, came the day after the Swiss government formally started the fund; any Holocaust victim can apply for a part of its proceeds.

Friends and supporters of DA **Terence Hallinan** will hold a St. Patrick's Day bash for the top prosecutor at the famed Dovre Club on 18th St. on Thursday, March 13, to help retire Kayo's campaign debt. Enjoy lots of corn beef, Irish music, green beer, dancing, etc. (\$25 at the door, 5:30-8 p.m., 681-2929 for more info.)

A homophobic state senator, **Pete Knight** (R-Palmdale), whose own son is gay, last week reintroduced legislation in Sacramento that would prevent California from recognizing same-sex marriages.

Richard Gordon, an openly gay candidate for the San Mateo County Board of Supes in next month's April 8 election, deserves the votes of all of our San Mateo readers.



Rep. Lynn Woolsey

The Quote of the Week is from a letter drafted by Marin Rep. **Lynn Woolsey** (D) to Defense Secretary **William Cohen** regarding the increased number of gays and lesbians forced out of the armed forces since "Don't ask, Don't tell" was instituted: "In your new position as Secretary of Defense, you have the authority to bring the 'don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue' policy back to its original intent to protect gays and lesbians from harassment and abuse; it is crucial that you make enforcement of the policy, including strong discipline for those who violate it, a top priority during your tenure."

The letter was signed by 36 other House members; Cohen has said publicly that he will "do everything I can to see that the rising harassment of gays and lesbians is stopped." The next move is yours, Mr. Secretary. ▼

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— Carole Fiedler

**Riot girls**

PHOTO: JANE PHILPOT/WEIR

Rebbecca Riots' (l to r) Eve Decker, Andrea Prichett and Lisa Zeiler relax after their Feb. 28 performance at Cafe Maribel. The band trio will be performing March 8 at the Women's Building for International Women's Day. The festivities, which include lots of music, food, arts and crafts, raffles and other surprises, run through Sunday, March 9. See the related story on p. 14 for more information.

The muck stops here

by Beth Elliott

You Must Be At Least This Short to Ride the Bitch Dept.: Here are some handy, helpful hints for those who want to write to the B.A.R. to trash this columnist. First, keep your screed to 500 words or less, no matter how badly I've pissed you off. Second, don't try to trash me in multiple papers with the same letter, or my editor will ignore you.

Third, make what you write comprehensible. If my editor can't figure out what you're saying, he's not going to print it. Reading the first version of the letter that prompted the foregoing (the *second* version is printed on page 7 ... if you care) I did get the personal insults — which were laughable and ineffective — and not much more.

Basically, this writer took great offense at the lack of reverence for Communism/ "class struggle" shown in my recent "Mickey Maoist Club" essay. I hadn't known some kind of belief in socialism of some form was a prerequisite for being a "real lesbian." I think that notion is a load of crap, and I'd like to take this opportunity to tell those trying to enforce that idea on other lesbians to sit on it and spin.

I said then that the lesbian movement's flirtation with Cultural Revolution-style enforcement of political orthodoxy, both during the political wars of the 1970s and the sex wars of the 1980s (hello, little letter-writer!) These were both waged against you!, had stunted our community's growth. This letter proved my point. How many lesbians want to be part of a movement in which they can be trashed for concluding — correctly — they are at risk of personal attack for declining to convey moral title to their lives, property, and labor to any woman who claims entitlement to them?

Lazy butches

This letter contained impasioned portrayals of Communists at the barricades, fighting for union labor conditions. So what? Many non-Communists fought those battles. I didn't see any Communists working with Jim Foster, Jeanne Cordova, myself *et al.* to get California's sodomy laws repealed. They were busy trying to

take credit for our work. Or forging our organizations' endorsements on their "mass actions." Or sitting on their lazy butches talking about how there would be no freedom for queers without socialist revolution — while countries that already had one were throwing us into psychiatric prisons.

The writer said it was too bad I didn't follow through on Mao's Little Red Book and make the revolution happen. Darn, I guess I missed out on some non-traditional career opportunities — I could have pointed one of those tanks at students in Tiananmen Square. What was I thinking? That a dictatorship of the proletariat is still a dictatorship?

My time could have been more productively spent fighting wars of orthodoxy. Collectivism, as advocated by

people in Western-style democracies, is all about getting yourself defined as a member of one of the groups that deserves to have others subsidize it. One of those groups is those "pure" enough to know who's entitled to take and who's obligated to give. The more angry and indignant you act, the better you are as a person and therefore more "entitled," not only to the goodies but also the control of their distribution.

The other week, both the *SF Weekly* and the *Bay Guardian* ran cartoons grumbling about the IRS and paying taxes. In the case of the *Guardian*, this was the height of hypocrisy. Editor Tim Redmond has stated in print that "the purpose of government is to redistribute income." But when the government does the job he expects it to do, he complains. "No, I didn't mean redistribute *my* income!" — proof again that what Marxists really mean is, "From each according to your abilities, to each according to my needs."

Pierced progressives

If that's such a great idea, what's keeping these "progressives" from practicing it themselves? The cost of one facial piercing could feed and clothe an unwed high school drop-out's baby. The cost of a night at a dance club could house a homeless person for a night. The cost of

one large color tattoo could feed an undocumented immigrant family for a month.

Writer Bruce Mirkin complained in a book review about a post-WWII PR campaign suggesting the individual was more important than the collective. If we owe it to other people to contribute to the best of our ability, what are these proto-Marxists doing sipping espresso in trendy cafes when they could be out working overtime to support their fellow proletarians? Hey, pull out those facial piercings, grow out your hair and let it revert to its natural color, and get a real job so you can redistribute your income! Put your money where your pierced mouth is.

Government is our paid servant. It's there to protect our life, liberty, and opportunity to pursue happiness, to protect us from force and fraud; we owe it the money it takes to fulfill that role for us. There's room in this framework to debate the parameters of that role — but not to establish, by force, collective ownership of any possession just because somebody else says they're "entitled" to it. Many people would be much more willing to "share" more of what they have if they believed, as many did during LBJ's "Great Society," that people would make use of opportunities offered. Entitlement culture abuses them of that notion.

I end with two quotes. The first, from Prof. Maria Hsia Chang (U. of Nevada, Reno): "Mao's brand of socialism left China impoverished... His unceasing mass campaigns not only disrupted economic production but also fomented widespread strife. During the Cultural Revolution, China descended into a living hell of tribalism and a Hobbesian war of all against all." The second, from a review of a documentary on the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival: "It's ugly, it's seedy, and it demonstrates, as the Altamont rock festival had the previous fall, how easily the concepts of communalism and peace were undermined by a stupid, scuzzy fringe that thought being a hippie meant getting everything for free."

No, thank you. ▼

**Sapphistication**

13 years ago:

Liberace and liberation

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: The "palimony" lawsuit against Liberace is thrown out of court March 1, 1984.

Lundoubtedly the most flamboyant entertainer of the century, Wladziu Valentino Liberace was also one of the most fiercely closeted. On three separate occasions, the showman hired lawyers to help keep his homosexuality secret, each time defeating those who alleged that he was gay. The entertainer who absolutely reveled in gay stereotypes — from poodles to pink sequins — insisted on a heterosexual facade until the day he died of AIDS just over ten years ago.

Liberace first went to court to swear to his status as a red-blooded American male in 1956, when a columnist for the London *Daily Mirror* called him, among other things, a "fruit-flavored, mincing, ice-covered heap of mother love." Liberace sued for damages, and in the trial testified that his bachelor status was only temporary. "I am always looking around for a pretty girl to marry," he said under oath. "I have 12 proposals a month, and on Valentine's Day I got 27,000 Valentines."

This testimony came after more than a decade of sexual liaisons between Liberace and other men. But when Liberace was asked in court about his feelings towards homosexuality, he replied, "My feelings are the same as anyone else, sir. I am against this practice because it offends convention and it offends society."

William Connor, the columnist whose mockery of Liberace had occasioned the lawsuit, defended himself by denying that the column implied that Liberace was gay, even arguing that the words "fruit" and "fairy" only have gay connotations in America, but not in Britain. The jury did not believe him, and his publication was forced to pay more than \$20,000 in damages. Liberace later wrote that he felt his manhood had been vindicated by the verdict.

A year later, the American scandal-mongering publication *Confidential* ran a cover story entitled, "Why Liberace's Theme Song Should be 'Mad About the Boy.'" Liberace sued, and the parties settled out of court, this time enriching the entertainer and his attorneys by \$40,000.

Thirty years later, Liberace once again found himself in court defending himself against an accusation of homosexuality, this time in a "palimony" suit by his former chauffeur and lover, Scott Thorson. Thorson had met Liberace in 1977 when the younger man was 18 and the entertainer was more than three times his age. Liberace had invited a series of good-looking, blond young men into his many bedrooms in his many homes, but his relationship with Thorson was longer and by all accounts more devoted.

During their five-year relationship, Liberace showered Thorson with hundreds of gifts, investigated the possibility of legally adopting him, and paid for plastic surgery so the younger man could look more like his patron. Thorson's memoir describes Liberace as sexually ravenous, with a fondness for poppers, porno tapes, and

multiple sex partners. Toward the end of their relationship, Thorson became increasingly dependent on cocaine, while Liberace increasingly had his eye on other young men.

In March 1982, Thorson was evicted from one of Liberace's apartments and given \$75,000 in exchange for waiving future claims. But he soon argued that he had agreed under duress and was entitled to \$113 million in damages because Liberace had promised to take care of all Thorson's financial needs in exchange for companionship and sex. Two years later, a Nevada judge threw Thorson's lawsuit out of court by holding that a "money for sex" arrangement was prostitution, which even in Nevada did not entitle Thorson to a permanent share of Liberace's income. Thorson's lawyers refused to drop the matter, though, and in 1986, Liberace agreed to a final payment of

page 26 ►



Anne Leibovitz

Lord of the rings:
Libby's precious paws.

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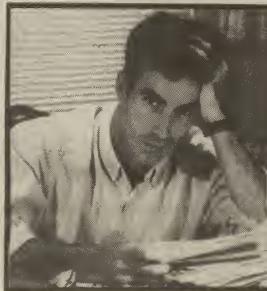
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'Positive Women, Positive Art' exhibit celebrates Women's Day

by Cynthia Laird

Pali Boucher is a Bay Area photographer who has channeled her energy into putting together an art show, even though she cheerfully admits she didn't know much about organizing one. Things have come together wonderfully for Boucher and the 11 other women whose art will be featured at the "Positive Women, Positive Art" exhibit and sale taking place Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9 at The Women's Building in San Francisco. The weekend event also marks International Women's Day on Saturday and is just one event during Women's History Month.

A variety of art, including mixed media paintings, ceramics, jewelry, and dream catchers, will be on exhibit and available for purchase. Many of the women artists are HIV-positive, and several spoke of the need to give back something to their community — one that's often overlooked, at least to some extent, in news about the epidemic.

Boucher, who is HIV-positive, said she got the idea about four months ago.

"I was talking to my therapist, telling her that I was getting depressed making art and shoving it in my closet," Boucher told the B.A.R. "My therapist suggested having an art show, and it sounded like a good idea."

"It's been great. It's been really empowering and has helped me feel connected," she continued. "I can't believe how giving people are."

"Positive Women, Positive Art" is being co-sponsored by the Women's AIDS Network (WAN), Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases (WORLD), and the Iris Center. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments, raffle prizes and other items are being donated by local businesses for the event.

The exhibit's other artists include Suzin Wisland, whose talent is mixed media paintings; Dolores Lucas, who specializes in making dream catchers; Marla Allen, Linda Peach, and Viv Jones, who will each have their unique hand-crafted jewelry exhibited; Donna Smith, showing mixed media art; Carol Siporen, who specializes in



Artists (l to r) Dolores Lucas, Pali Boucher and Suzin Wisland pose outside the Women's Building.

watercolor art; and Dale Alexander, who will show paintings.

Elena Montez, who is active with the Names Project, will exhibit her handmade quilts. Boucher and Donna Haggerty will display their photographs.

On Saturday, Nancy LeMoines and Sharon Siskin will lead a mask-making workshop. Participants will have an opportunity to create brilliant, unique masks. LeMoines said there is a sliding scale donation between "zero and \$10" to help offset the cost of materials.

The women are excited about

this show, which many of them helped Boucher organize.

"I'm not HIV-positive, but all the addicts I know and used with are HIV-positive," Jones told the B.A.R. "I'm a pre- and post-HIV counselor."

Sonja Mackenzie, with WAN, credited Boucher in pulling everything together for the upcoming exhibit. "She's done an incredible job."

She also hopes "Positive Women, Positive Art" will increase visibility of women living with HIV. AIDS deaths among women

are on the rise, despite recent news reports that heralded a decrease in deaths, Mackenzie said.

Sandi Luna, program coordinator at WORLD, said the most important thing is that women with HIV are getting a chance to express themselves. ▀

"Positive Women, Positive Art" will be held from 1 to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The Women's Building is located at 3543 18th Street.

Music and poetry highlight International Women's Day, benefit women prisoners

by Cynthia Laird

Riotous performances by Riot Act Theatre and Rebecca Riots will kick off this year's International Women's Day celebration that will focus on the theme, "Women Prisoners Need Health Care," this Saturday, March 8 at the Women's Building in San Francisco.

Sponsored by the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, the evening will feature Lorna Aquino-Chui, a Riot Act Theatre stilt performer; music by Rebecca Riots, a Bay Area women's

acoustic group; poetry by Chrys, a Native American lesbian poet; a report from behind the walls; and a speak-out by formerly incarcerated women.

The event is wheelchair-accessible, and child care will be provided.

Judy Greenspan, of the coalition, said the International Women's Day event will highlight the class action lawsuit filed by women prisoners in California protesting medical neglect and charging abuse. The more than 10,000 women prisoners do not have access to adequate gynecological care, treatment for chronic di-

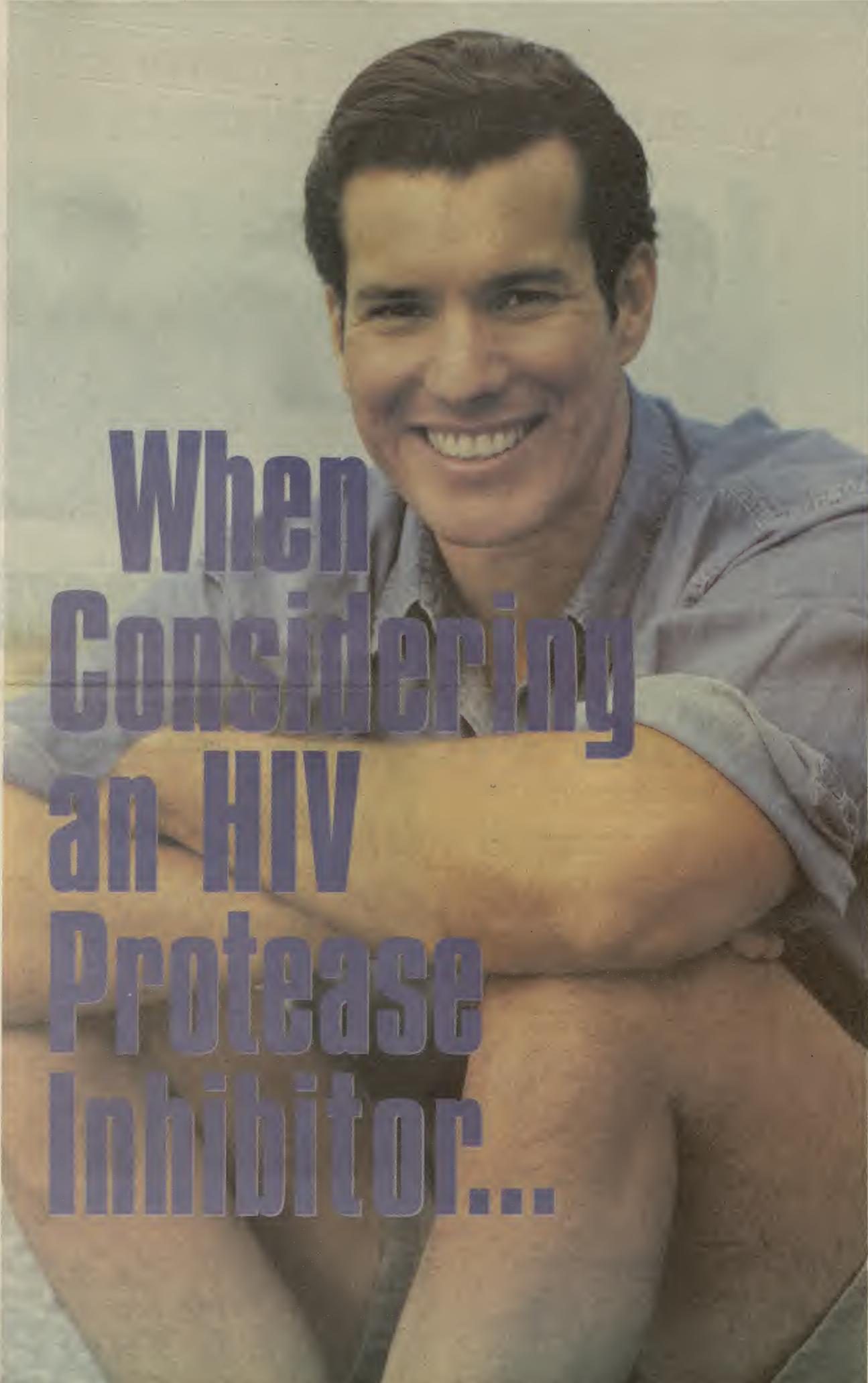
abetes, asthma, and lupus, appropriate cancer therapies, and HIV/AIDS infectious disease specialists. The lawsuit, *Shumate v. Wilson*, goes to trial in Sacramento in the spring. Greenspan said. ▀

The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Women's Building, located at 3543 18th Street. There is a donation of \$10-25 per person, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information, call the California Coalition for Women Prisoners at (415) 255-7036, ext. 4 or (510) 834-5656, ext. 3150.

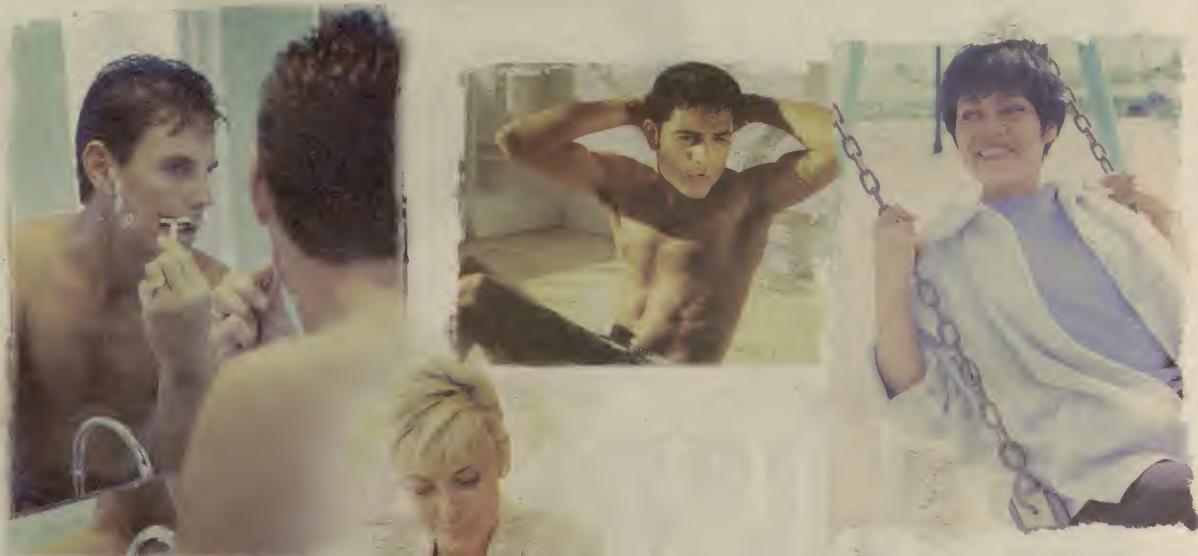
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COMMUNITY NEWS

AIDS Office clarifies position on condoms

Five clubs already provide them all the time

by Cynthia Laird

In two interviews with the *Bay Area Reporter*, AIDS Office Director Dr. Mitch Katz has clarified the Department of Public Health's (DPH) position on widespread condom distribution in gay bars. He has also acknowledged that while rubbers should not be viewed as the only means of preventing HIV infection, they are one important part of prevention strategy and they will be provided to "any site that wants them."

The AIDS Office director said some DPH information has not been correctly stated. "All we're trying to say is that condoms alone are not really very powerful intervention," he reiterated. "Condoms are one important part of prevention strategy that needs to be combined with other interventions."

Part of the problem with rubbers, he said, is that men who are drunk or high at a bar tend not to think much about condoms. Another issue is that a remarkable number of people don't like them.

"Acceptability of condoms is a bigger issue than accessibility," he said, adding, "I don't want anyone to think I'm against condoms. As much as we're doing on HIV prevention, we're not doing enough."

Some community activists have been advocating for free condoms in all the bars all of the time, and not just during pride festivities in June.

Politicians have also raised the issue. Supervisor Leslie Katz has requested information on condom distribution from Health Director Dr. Sandra Hernandez at the board's Health, Family, and Environment Committee hearing this Thursday, March 13. The hearing is open to the public.

Over four months ago, Supervisor Katz asked for a widespread condom distribution plan. Since last October, she has received letters from Hernandez that outline the city's current condom programs, as well as some information about a broader plan that would target 230 bars that serve primarily gay male clientele or others at high risk for HIV.

"We've talked with Leslie Katz's office and provided a plan. She asked for information on what the AIDS Office does currently and the cost. We provided that," Dr. Katz said. "We had to find out the total number of bars that serve persons at high risk for HIV. It's not my perception that there has been any delay, other than the delay to get accurate information."

The cost for a distribution program targeting 230 bars would be \$150,000, according to Hernandez.

Based on that information, and \$15,000 in prevention funds for Stop AIDS Project's condom program that starts in July, Supervisor Katz estimates it will cost an additional \$130,000 to get latex in all the bars next year. She wants DPH to request the money for that as part of the department's 1997-98 budget.

Last month, Hernandez told the B.A.R. that all of the DPH's data indicate people have unsafe sex for a lot of reasons, but lack of condom availability isn't one of them.



Dr. Mitch Katz

One person showed

Marcy Fraser, an AIDS Office staff person, wrote to bar owners twice last summer. The first letter outlined the office's "Liberty and Latex for All" campaign during pride week. She said the response from bar owners was overwhelmingly positive.

"No one turned us away," said Fraser, adding they all seemed "more than happy" to distribute the condoms to customers.

Fraser's second letter, sent to the 52 gay bars last July, addressed ongoing condom distribution. A meeting was held on August 6; only one person attended besides staff, Fraser said. She pointed out, however, that only two bar owners responded to the letter. Hernandez also noted the low response in a letter to Supervisor Katz.

Staff at the Stop AIDS Project questioned the low number of respondents.

"That hasn't been our experience," Patrick Barresi told the B.A.R. "We've found bars to be receptive to taking them."

Dan Wohlfeiler said the agency has been working with bar owners regularly. The outreach includes spending time with bar owners to find out what might make them resistant to condom distribution such as placing condom baskets behind the counter as opposed to on the counter, he explained.

"Bar owners want to serve their drinks and make money, but they really want to do something," Wohlfeiler told the B.A.R.

The current funding of \$15,000 only allows the agency to target 20 bars, he said.

List not confidential

On Thursday, February 20, the *Bay Area Reporter* requested the list of the bars that received Fraser's letter last summer. Initially, Fraser refused to provide the documents, saying they were confidential.

"We want a good relationship with the bars," was Fraser's only comment.

Supervisor Susan Leal learned of the paper's request and also expressed an interest in seeing the information. Her staff was directed to make inquiries into the matter.

Leal's staff contacted the City Attorney's office to determine the legality of the AIDS Office's deci-

sion, with relation to the state's Ralph M. Brown Act and the city's Sunshine Ordinance. Both require government offices to make most documents, such as letters sent by the office, available to the press.

Several hours later, the newspaper received the information.

Dr. Mitch Katz maintained his office had "no problem" providing the information to the paper.

Stand out bars

Over the last two weeks, the B.A.R. has started contacting owners and managers of gay bars in an attempt to learn if they currently provide free condoms for customers; or whether they would be interested in distributing rubbers if a city program was in place. Several predominantly gay bars currently have condoms available free for customers year round.

Barresi said when he thinks of condoms in bars, one business is significantly better than others. "One bar stands out, and that's Daddy's. They buy their own condoms."

Daddy's, a leather bar in the heart of the Castro, has been freely giving out the latex since November 3, 1995, the day owner Phillip Turner opened his doors.

page 21 ►



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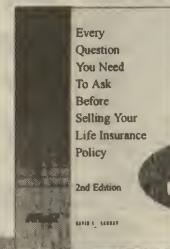
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State held liable for indigent medical care

United Press International

The California Supreme Court has ruled that the obligation to pay for medical care for the poor lies with the state rather than counties.

The court held Monday, March 3 that San Diego County is entitled to reimbursement for the costs of providing health care services to adults who formerly received MediCal because they could not afford medical services.

The state argued that because San Diego had statutory discre-

tion to set eligibility and service standards, there was no mandate for reimbursement.

But the court says the state exaggerated the extent of a county's discretion, because counties cannot refuse medical care to indigent persons.

The court ordered the case back to the Commission on State Mandates to determine whether, and by what amount, state standards of care forced San Diego to incur costs in excess of the funds provided by the state.

The commission will also determine the monetary remedy to which San Diego is entitled.

In the dissent, Justice Joyce Kennard wrote that the counties' win may be a "Pyrrhic victory."

Kennard said that in anticipation of the court's decision, the state enacted legislation that will drastically reduce the counties' share of other state revenue.

In 1991, the Legislature added a section to the Revenue and Taxation Code that moneys collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles for the Local Revenue Fund would cease to be operative following a decision of state liability for medical services to indigent adults. ▼

State bills

◀ page 1

A brief overview of current bills of interest to the lesbian and gay community:

• AB 54, carried by Willard Murray (D-Paramount), is expected to be heard in Assembly Judiciary Committee in mid-March. This bill supports domestic partnership and would provide a statewide domestic partnership registry and hospital visitation and conservatorship rights for domestic partners. Under current law there is no statewide recognition of relationship status, therefore a partner cannot provide healthcare benefits for his/her partner or partner's children. In the absence of a will there is no automatic right of inheritance for the partner or children including estates, assets, and retirement benefits; hospital visitation is not a legal right; and there is no legal provision for decisions regarding hospital treatment and care. This bill would remedy the current lack of partnership rights.

• AB 53, also carried by Murray, has been referred to Assembly Judiciary and is expected to be heard in mid-March. This bill provides that an unmarried adult, a married couple, or two adults who are not legally married may

adopt a child. The bill will prohibit a social worker from stating or advocating that adoption by an unmarried couple is not in the best interest of the child based solely upon the couple's marital status. The bill addresses a currently-pending adoption regulation which may force social workers to recommend against gay and lesbian couples as adoptive parents. This bill will prevent gay and lesbian adoptive parents from being discriminated against in the adoptive process.

• AB 101, carried by Sheila Kuehl, reintroduces a bill that adds sexual orientation to the list of groups protected from discrimination in schools. Called the "Dignity for All Students Bill," it has been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and a hearing is set for March 18.

• AB 257, carried by Antonio Villaraigosa, (D-LA), adds sexual orientation to the existing conditions of discrimination addressed by the Fair Employment and Housing Act. The bill is currently on the Assembly Desk and will probably be heard in Assembly Judiciary sometime in April.

• AB 492, introduced by Fred Keeley (D-Monterey), will clean up problems of sexual orientation presented in the Labor Code. Although the code now bars discrimination due to sexual orientation, complainants have only 30 days from the date of the incident to file discrimination charges, versus other protected groups which have a year. The bill clarifies the exemption to the discrimination status for religious organizations granted in AB 2601. That bill, passed in 1992, was intended to exempt only religious organizations, but has been interpreted by the Labor Commissioner to apply to all non-profit organizations with the exemption. Under FEHA and the Labor Code, only religious organizations should be exempt, and this legislation clarifies that status. The bills are expected to be heard in the Assembly Labor Committee in mid-April.

• AB 1059, introduced by Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), provides that the term "eligible spouse" in the Health and Safety and Insurance Codes will include domestic partners for purposes of extending healthcare benefits. Will probably be heard in Assembly Health Committee in April. ▼

• SB 841, introduced by Tom Hayden (D-LA), deals with public contracts and provides that the state may not contract or enter into any other agreement with a contractor that discriminates in

the provision of benefits between employees with spouses and employees with domestic partners. Currently this bill is on the Senate Desk and will probably be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee in April.

A word from our malefactors

No legislative session would be complete without bills from the opposition, and a couple to watch would be AB 800 by Bob Margett (R-LA) and SB 911 by Pete Knight (R-San Bernardino). Both deal with the Defense of Marriage Act. The identical bills seek to prohibit California from recognizing same gender marriages performed in other states. The bills seek to protect the compelling interest of "social order, encouraged by fostering procreation and promoting the optimal development of children within a marital setting."

They also claim to keep "the institution of marriage fortified and protected rather than being further undermined and weakened by fundamentally redefining the institution ... to apply to any consenting persons regardless of gender or number" and "the state's treasury protected from the financial burden of providing millions of dollars for spousal healthcare, retirement, and other benefits associated with state recognition of marriages other than between one man and one woman."

Additional provisions of the bills could jeopardize benefits currently received in cities and counties that have passed domestic partners benefits legislation. The bills will likely be heard in April in the Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees respectively.

• AB 424, introduced by Steve Baldwin (R-San Diego), prohibits the phase out of armed forces training units on post-secondary campuses, and would make it state public policy to allow those units and recruiters access to any campus of any public post-secondary educational unit. It would prohibit the removal and phase-out of those programs and requires reinstatement of those programs previously removed. This bill will probably be heard in Assembly Higher Education in April. ▼

For more information about these bills, contact Ellen McCormick, Legislative Advocate at Life Lobby, at (916) 444-0424 or send e-mail to ellen.mccormick@lifelobby.com.

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Washington sends docs confusing pot letter

by Bob Roehr

The Clinton administration tried to buy itself some breathing room on medical use of marijuana in a Thursday, February 27 letter to the California Medical Association. But the effort by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services only seems to have reinforced skepticism.

The letter expressed concern that "several misperceptions have developed concerning the federal government's response" to the California measure approved by voters. It went out of its way to assure the CMA in two paragraphs that "No 'gag rule' stops physicians from engaging in these discussions" of the risks and benefits of medical marijuana.

But the subsequent paragraph seemed to say, we really didn't mean what we just wrote. It continued: "Such discussions, however, have their limits. Physicians may not intentionally provide their patients with oral or written statements in order to enable them to obtain controlled substances in violation of the law." And it repeated threats to pull the prescription authority of those



Marj Plumb

who do.

The second page of the letter bashed marijuana for lacking "scientific testing" which proves it is an effective drug. It extensively trumpeted negative aspects of the weed.

The letter went on at length about "additional steps" the government was taking. It cited the NIH panel of experts that considered medical marijuana at a meeting February 19-20. But it managed to omit mention of the unanimous conclusion of the

panel that marijuana "looks promising enough to recommend there should be some controlled studies" for a number of medical uses.

Marj Plumb, director of public policy for the San Francisco-based Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, found the letter "very interesting." She said, "It means that they are really not hearing the outcry from physicians saying, 'You can't do this, you can't come into our examination rooms like this.'

"They still see this as part of their war on drugs and as a political issue. I question their commitment to really looking at the research to back up what physicians already know, that this is a useful drug for some patients."

Gary Rose, with the AIDS Action Council, is "encouraged" by what he sees as a small step taken by the administration to move away from its hard line position. He believes the law suit filed in California "is going to drive policy" and eventually force the administration to accept medical judgment as the basis for policy on medical marijuana.

Plumb concluded, "The discussion between the patient and the provider has to be of any intervention, of any bias, of any gag rules, of any constriction at all."

Condoms

◀ page 19

"Stop AIDS Project connected me with a supplier, and I get a reduced rate because I don't sell them. I spend about \$178 every two months," Turner told the B.A.R.

That's about \$1,068 per year.

Daddy's has a basket at each station where drinks are served. The bar backs are responsible for making sure the baskets are kept stocked.

Four other bars have rubbers all the time: Polk Gulch Saloon, and the Castro Station, both owned by Steve Valone; the Cafe, managed by Morgan Gorrono; and the Pilsner Inn, owned by Pat Conlin.

Turner said he has "talked up" the idea of condoms in the bars with other owners over the years, with largely unsuccessful results. But to him, it simply makes good business sense.

"If nothing else, bar owners should think about preserving their clientele," he said. "I say the cost is negligible."

"These kids are out here [at gay bars] meeting each other in a very social setting. Let's face it, they pair up, go home, and play. If they can reach over and grab some protection, well, that's what I'm here to do," said Turner.

Said Castro Station's Valone, "We've had condoms for a couple of years now. We get them from Projeto ContraSIDA por Vida." He, too, thinks rubbers should be available at all of the bars.

Gorrono said condoms are provided from DPH, and the Cafe's had them for the last seven months.

Barresi and Turner were asked why more bar owners don't provide free condoms, and what it would take to make that happen. Barresi said an intern at Stop AIDS Project studied the issue of barriers to having condoms at the bars.

"One thing we uniformly found is all [bar owners in the study] agreed condom distribu-

tion is a good thing," Barresi said. "They like that it [condom distribution] is a very concrete, not abstract prevention tool," said Barresi.

Personal responsibility

Some bar owners do have issues around free latex. Some may feel it's interfering in the sex lives of their customers, despite the obvious fact that many customers have sex with someone they've met at a bar. Barresi said some owners don't think their role is to nose into their customers' sex lives, and some view handing out condoms as being nosy.

There are other reasons too, including the belief that it's a personal responsibility issue.

"It's everyone's personal responsibility for themselves. We're not Big Brother, but we want them available," said Kevin Owens, owner of the Lone Star Saloon, a popular South of Market gay bar.

Owens said that "it's absolutely a good idea" to have latex at all the bars all of the time. But the condoms need to be provided by DPH or an agency that contracts with them to distribute them, such as Stop AIDS Project.

Owens, who has owned the Lone Star since October 1993, told the B.A.R. his establishment has distributed condoms on special occasions in the past, including Pride weekend and the Folsom Street Fair.

"A few months ago, we had a bucket of condoms," Owens said.

The bucket was empty during the recent International Bear Rendezvous.

"If I had them, I'd put them out," he said, adding there is information geared at young adults in the bathrooms. ▼

The Board of Supervisors committee hearing will be held Thursday, March 13 at 10 a.m. in the fourth floor hearing room at City Hall, 401 Van Ness



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East Bay honorees



Ric Hsu, Lisbet Tellefsen, Valerie Papaya Mann, Luis Orozco, Denise Beirnes, Grant Peterson, Sister Sharon Marie Casey, and Kathy Teller were all honored March 1 in Oakland at the first Trailblazer Awards. (Not pictured are Dottie Fowler, Stephen Johnson and Dr. Robert Scott III.) The well-attended banquet at the Clarion Suites Hotel overlooking Lake Merritt recognized gays and lesbians in the East Bay who have made significant contributions to the community.

Cynthia Laird

NoCal gay center reps to meet in San Jose

by Cynthia Laird

For the second consecutive year, the Billy DeFrank Center in San Jose will host a networking meeting for Northern and Central California gay community centers next Saturday, March 8. About 15 centers, a few of which have opened in the last three months, are expected to be represented, said Ralph Serpe, executive director at the DeFrank center.

Board members from the Community Center Project (CCP) in San Francisco will be among some 60 people representing community centers in various cities. Serpe said others who are interested in developing gay community centers are welcome to attend the free event.

Scott Shafer, a board member of San Francisco's CCP, said several people from the CCP board will be going to the meeting.

"There is a very vibrant community center movement throughout the state and country," Shafer told the B.A.R. "These regional meetings are very helpful. They energize people, and people can share ideas."

The CCP plans to launch a \$2.5 million capital campaign this spring. A design competition is underway for the building, located at Market and Octavia streets. The winning architectural firm will be announced at a public presentation on Sunday, April 19.

Coming together

Serpe, who is on the planning board of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Community Centers, said that when he used to attend meetings, he would be the only person there from Northern California. He thought that was unusual, given the large gay com-

munity in this part of the state.

"Last January [1996] was the first time we all came together," Serpe told the B.A.R., referring to the first gathering. "We had 11 centers. It wasn't a competitive thing; it was a really great experience."

Serpe said that Kerry Iobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), will be attending the networking meeting, along with Richard Burns, director of the gay community center in New York. Digital Queers and the Horizons Foundation will also be represented, he said.

Serpe said the centers that have opened in the last three months are in Walnut Creek, Eureka, and San Luis Obispo. Additionally, a center in Medford, Oregon has just opened; representatives from that center also plan to attend the San Jose meeting.

Other people at the meeting will be from Spectrum Center in San Anselmo, the Pride Center Sonoma County in Santa Rosa, the Pacific Center in Berkeley, and gay and lesbian community centers in Fremont, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, and Chico.

At the meeting, Serpe said people will introduce themselves and tell where their center is and what they do at the center.

"Each center has a different focus," he said.

Serpe encouraged people interested in attending to call him to register. The Billy DeFrank Center received a grant from Pacific Bell to offset meeting costs. ▼

The meeting takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Billy DeFrank Center is located at 175 Stockton Avenue in San Jose. For more information, call Ralph Serpe at (408) 293-2429.

Gay rights support wavers

A new poll released Monday, March 3 shows that while Californians are becoming increasingly supportive of gay rights, they remain opposed to same-sex marriage. The Field Poll found that two-thirds of the public favors a law providing domestic partners with legal family benefits, but 56 percent object to laws that would allow gay or lesbian pairs to marry. ▼

– United Press International

Spanners lose in European court

by Liz Highleyman

The leather community was dealt a blow February 19 when the European Court of Human Rights ruled unanimously to uphold the verdict in the Spanner case, known officially as *Regina vs. Brown*.

The verdict came two months earlier than originally expected.

The Spanner case involved 15 men in the U.K. who were arrested in 1990 for practicing consensual sadomasochism (SM). A three-year police investigation code-named Operation Spanner uncovered private videotapes showing the men engaged in sadomasochistic activities, for which they were arrested, tried, and sentenced to prison. The judges in the initial court case ruled that consent was immaterial in cases of bodily harm. In an bizarre twist, the men who participated in the activities as bottoms were accused of aiding and abetting assaults upon themselves.

The Spanner defendants brought their case before the Law Lords, the highest court of appeal in the U.K. In March 1993, that court upheld the original verdict in a split decision, ruling that the government has a right to intervene in private behavior in defense of "health and public morals." Three of the original defendants — Roland Jaggard, Tony Brown, and Colin Laskey — then appealed the case to the European Court in Strasbourg, France last October (Laskey has since died, as has another of the original defendants, Alan Oversby, also known as Mr. Sebastian). All three of the defendants lost their jobs, and Jaggard was forced to undergo psychiatric treatment.

Countdown on Spanner/Spanner Trust was organized to call attention to the case and raise money for legal expenses; several such fundraising events have been held in the Bay Area in recent years. After more than a year of preparation, the court proceedings lasted only three hours.

The nine judges ruled that "the state has an incontestable right to regulate through the penal code practices which can harm the body. The determination of what level of harm to tolerate when the victim consents is first and foremost up to the state authorities." The court agreed that it was "unquestionably one of the roles of the state to regulate activities which involve the infliction of physical harm," and that it is "the prerogative of the state on moral grounds to deter acts of the kind in question." The defendants had engaged in activities that included whipping, piercing, and genital torture. None of the men sustained permanent injury or even required first aid.

Concept of private life

In a concurring addendum to the ruling, Judge Pettitt stated that "the concept of private life cannot be stretched indefinitely. The dangers of unrestrained permissiveness, which can lead to debauchery, pedophilia and torture of others, has been highlighted at the World Conference in Stockholm [on the sexual abuse of children]. The protection of private life means the protection of a person's intimacy and dignity, not the protection of

his baseness or the promotion of criminal immorality." He concluded that the convictions were "necessary in a democratic society for the protection of health."

Pettitt further suggested that the ruling in this case should lead to an expansion of Paragraph 43 of the European Charter to allow national governments "to regulate and punish practices of sexual abuse that are demeaning, even if they do not involve the infliction of physical harm."

As the Spanner case wended its way through the appeals process, substantial changes have occurred in British public opinion and offi-

cial attitudes toward consensual SM. As Kellan Farshea, organizer of Countdown on Spanner, stated, "the climate of opinion in Britain regarding SM has changed immeasurably" over the past five years. "This decision may once have had a mandate in public opinion, but it does not now. We have seen a marked shift away from pure condemnation towards a *laissez-faire* attitude. What we do in private, and what we do with our own bodies, is a matter for us to decide."

Even the *Times* of London asserted in an editorial that the ruling of the Law Lords in the case was "illiberal nonsense." Since the original convictions, England's Crown Prosecution Service has changed its guidelines such that the arrests in the Spanner case would be unlikely to occur today. In addition, the British Law Commission has recommended that the laws on consent be amended to permit SM activity that does not result in serious or disabling injury.

At the same time, however, U.K. authorities have moved against several SM-related events and organizations over the past two years.

Not a human rights court

The European Court grew out of the European Convention on Human Rights in 1950. In recognition of the diversity of values and legal standards in the signatory countries, the convention embodies the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of nations. The European Court is a political court, and does not focus on ensuring the human rights of individuals. It is not expected that the Spanner ruling will have sweeping implications, since it essentially reaffirms the principle that decisions regarding whether and how to regulate individuals' private behavior are largely under the jurisdiction of the country in question.

The defendants in the case attempted to argue that their right to a private life had been infringed by the British court's ruling. Article 8 of the European Convention states that "everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence," and that "there shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety

or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

The British government based its counter-argument on the "health and morals" clause. In general, the legal system in Europe does not manifest the strong emphasis on individual rights and civil liberties that is the basis of much U.S. jurisprudence.

The Spanner defendants also claimed that they were discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. As evidence, they

The men who participated as bottoms were accused of aiding and abetting assaults upon themselves.

cited the case of "the bottom-branding couple," which involved a Doncaster, U.K. man who was arrested and convicted after a doctor reported to police that the man had branded his wife's buttocks, albeit at her request. An appeals court overturned the conviction, ruling that the private sexual activities of a married couple conducted in their own home was not a matter for the law.

The Strasbourg judges rejected the bias claim, stating that the cases were not comparable because the injuries sustained in the branding case were "less serious." ▶



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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

David Tully Anderson
June 12, 1949 – Jan. 1, 1997



David Tully Anderson died on Jan. 1 at 6:35 a.m. EST of cancer at the VA Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio, while visiting his family for the holidays.

David was born in Brantford, Ohio; served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971; and soon after his discharge, moved to San Francisco. He began working at the Midnight Sun in 1973, where he remained as one of the fastest and most popular bartenders in the Castro District until a change of bar ownership and the death of his partner, Robert, in 1989. In 1993, David and his new partner, Jerry, purchased a home in the historic district of Savannah, Ga., where the two had been happily attending auctions and working to renovate their home.

David "Tully" was a delightful man, filled with wonder and enthusiasm for life. He was also a loyal, loving, steadfast son, brother, uncle, co-worker and friend – and will be greatly missed by all. He is survived by a loving and supportive family, including his mother, Mary; brothers, Gary, Tom and Keith;

sisters, Marilyn and Deborah; many in-laws, nieces and nephews; his partner, Jerry; his cat, John; special friends, Victoria, Dr. John and LA Tom; and many other friends and acquaintances.

Forest Baker
1943 – 1997



Forest died last month from AIDS. Following his wishes there was a private cremation – without ceremony.

Forest's "real" life began with a decision to leave the (apparently) heartless Napa.

Calif. family of his growing-up time. He arrives here with the hippie era. Much chaos. A plunge into anti-war work (the political streak resurfaces later – ACT UP, DNCB in the '80s). And having a butterfly nature, he's soon making beautiful collages, too, plus stunning bead work and fab art quilts. The many faces of Forest. And developing a rich social life at the hippie gay bar, The Capri. Here he meets his best friend, Michael (Ford). Will the party go on forever?

In New York, problems. Shooting up with near-great sizzles and glam queens, Ondine and Holly. As this gradually appears to take its toll, he thinks, Why not leave this and go back?

He does. Once back here in the '80s, there's a settling down. The speed's stopped being a problem. He's older and quieter, isn't he? So he meets lover-for-life, Sam.Oops, it's the '90s. Where did the time go? What to do now?

"For my last act," Forest does the Capri oral history interviews. Taping survivors of "back then." They're great. But it's time to go. So does. Au revoir, honey, and goddess bless (if there is one to bless). Much love – B.

Arturo "Art" Guzman
July 9, 1941 – Feb. 16, 1997

Arturo's many friends and customers will miss the smile and friendly greeting that "Art" always had for his legions of fans during the many years of his bartending career in San Francisco.

Born in Dallas, Texas, he moved to San Francisco as a young man and was one of the city's most popular bartenders for many years; his last place of employment was at the P.S. Lounge on Polk Street.

Art is survived by his mother, Angela; four brothers; one sister; and many, many friends. A memorial service in his honor was held last week in the city that he adopted as his home, and he leaves behind literally hundreds of friends who will miss him greatly. Rest in peace, Arturo.

Donald Lundgren

June 16, 1945 – Feb. 24, 1997



Diagnosed only one month ago with terminal lung cancer, Don passed away peacefully, nurtured by his friends, Richard, Sally, Kathleen, Chad, Larry, Ken, Pat and Chapeau. He was an easy patient to tend to, thanks to the incredible care of the Visiting Nurses from Hospice.

Don was honored as a master of leather in the '80s and a bridge Life Master in the '90s. A bridge game in his honor is being planned. This singleton king of hearts is now a void in our hearts.

Bill Wallis

July 23, 1925 – Feb. 27, 1997

"Mr. Bill," as he was affectionately called by his many friends and acquaintances, had been a member of the U.S. Army. He was involved in the management of both Reflections and the Polk Rendezvous, and even worked very diligently during his last year of illness.

Mr. Bill was a fanatic for Scrabble tournaments, and played all around the country as well as on ships. There will be a celebration of his life on Sunday, March 16, 4-7 p.m., at Reflections Cocktail Lounge (1160 Polk, 771-6262). Mr. Bill was loved by those who knew him through the years, and he will be missed by all of us. Play that Scrabble in the sky, Mr. Bill!

SF to get \$2M
more in AIDS funds

No cuts in any service categories

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco has received \$2 million more in federal Ryan White CARE Act money than expected, the city announced Tuesday, March 4. According to Dr. Gene Copello, chief of health and prevention services, that means there will be no cuts in any service categories for the 1997-98 funding cycle.

The eligible metropolitan area (EMA) includes San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. Copello said San Mateo and Marin will receive \$2.1 million and \$1.3 million respectively. San Francisco's total in CARE funds will be \$37.3 million. Between the unexpected \$2 million and city's general fund money, Copello said AIDS/HIV services funded by CARE will not be reduced.

"I'm delighted," Copello told the B.A.R. "We did really well. We were told by the Health Resources Services Agency [HRSA] that we did very well."

Copello explained there are two funding parts to Ryan White funds: the formula, which is a calculated amount; and the supplemental, which is a competitive process with all EMAs in the country. He said San Francisco's application for the competitive funds has "proven once again" the city's leadership and experience

in AIDS services.

During last year's prioritization process, Copello told members of the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council that the amount from the supplemental award was not known.

"I was conservative from the beginning," Copello said, referring to estimates of CARE funding.

Council member William Carter said he was not the least bit surprised San Francisco did so well.

"The issue to me, along with how much [money] we get, is what we do with it," Carter told the B.A.R., adding he sees funding in some service categories as

an issue to discuss.

He said he is more concerned with Governor Pete Wilson's proposal to take CARE money from the nine EMAs in California to help fund the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

Copello said he'll discuss the award letter from HRSA with the council at its meeting on Monday, March 10. ▀

The planning council meeting starts at 4:30 p.m. and will be held in the sixth floor conference room at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 10 United Nations Plaza, at Seventh and Market streets.

U.S. records first
drop in AIDS deaths

by Mike Pezzella, UPI Science News

Federal health researchers say the number of deaths from AIDS declined in the first half of 1996, the first drop since the epidemic began in 1980. In a report issued Thursday, February 27 by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, officials say deaths from AIDS decreased 12 percent in the first six months of 1996 compared to the same period in 1995.

Federal researchers listed 50,000 AIDS deaths in 1995. During the first six months of 1996 there were 22,000 deaths. ▀

COMMUNITY NEWS

ACT UP at 10

◀ page 1

fight must continue if people with AIDS are to survive. It's unfathomable that after ten years, a movement is still struggling for the same issues, and incredible that a patients' rights action group is still on the front lines. ACT UP is alive and well in the continuing battle because AIDS is not over!

The following are ten reasons why direct action is still needed if AIDS is to be wiped out:

1) Drug development: New drugs must be made in order to combat the ferocious mutant capabilities of the HIV virus. People with AIDS need more options for treatment. According to several studies, more than 15% of people with HIV will not respond or "fail" current triple therapy. Controlling the complicated resistance, compliance, and toxicity of anti-HIV regimens is something researchers must reckon with. A concentrated focus and plan for upcoming development in basic science and in the clinic for new generations of treatments is needed to truly conquer AIDS.

2) Access to healthcare for all: The irony of inaccessibility to drugs and healthcare in light of all the treatment progress being made is outrageous. Costs are out of line, causing drug assistance programs and Medicaid to be broke. Our healthcare delivery system is about to implode. Congress and the administration must come to terms with the failure of our healthcare delivery system.

3) Immune-based research:

Broken immune systems need to be repaired, even in light of the new promising antivirals. CMV (cytomegalovirus) is appearing in people with CD4 counts of over 200 who have had dramatic rises in T-cells after success with triple drug regimens. This information leads us to ask, what kind of functioning cells are left to ward off further infection? Scientists must get over their egoist stranglehold on the sexy antiviral arena and allow immune-based researchers their moment of discovery.

4) Universal healthcare instead of managed care: The expense of the healthcare industry and demise of fee-for-service system is causing practices to close and qualified HIV doctors to be forced out of practice. Recent studies have shown that patients treated by knowledgeable AIDS physicians survive longer. Managed care clearly will not serve the needs of people with AIDS, let alone the elderly, people with heart disease, and cancer. In the '90s, managing people's healthcare has become managing profitability. It has become a system of greed and neglect. Kaiser Permanente is a prototype of how an HMO can be forced to provide services. It took ACT UP/Golden Gate, with the support of Supervisor Tom Ammiano, to change Kaiser's ways. The Kaiser upheaval was meant to be a precedent-setting example for how all other HMOs must provide for the needs of their patients. Kaiser, however,

is only the tip of the iceberg.

5) Lift the ban on needle exchange funding: Innumerable studies have shown the safety and effectiveness of needle exchange. Recently, the door to federal funding of local needle exchange programs was cracked open by Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, who authored a letter and report recognizing that needle exchange is effective at reducing HIV and other blood-borne diseases. Unfortunately, there was no mention of lifting the ban on federal funding for needle exchange, something the Clinton administration has been given the power to do by Congress. Injection drug users have the fastest-growing incidence of new HIV infection. They are front-line casualties in the politically motivated war on drugs.

6) Modified and strengthened prevention programs: Prevention efforts must meet the changing demographics of the disease and educate injection drug users and at-risk youth. It is past time for information about condom usage and clean needles to be up-front, open and honest, and for prevention programs to deal with the reality of gay youth.

7) An acceptable national leader for directing efforts against AIDS: The AIDS czar position has been a continuous joke. The job has been nothing but a powerless mouthpiece for the president. Ending AIDS will require a dedicated leader to strategize, plan and pull all efforts together.

8) AIDS careerism must end: The money-making machine that the epidemic has bred is a disgrace and an outrage. Our community-based organizations have become a means for a career. Our community must come to terms with the realities of the epidemic and assess what is useful and



ACT UP members get the Christmas spirit in Union Square.

needed. The pharmaceutical and diagnostic industries must be investigated and scrutinized by congressional hearings for their greedy price-gouging.

9) The global epidemic: Ninety percent of people with AIDS are outside of the US. Basic support such as clean water and shelter, let alone effective treatments, are out of reach for most people with AIDS in underdeveloped countries. The United States must play a larger role through funding and research. A newly directed international effort towards creating an effective preventative vaccine is crucial.

10) It ain't over till it's over: The Centers for Disease Control last week announced that AIDS deaths have decreased by 13%. However, three people still die from AIDS every day in San Francisco; ten die every day in New York. Only when people stop suffering and dying should the fighting stop. We must overcome the apathy led by the mainstream media in their spin that AIDS is over. Even though the first act of the epidemic may be over, the curtain is not down on the final act. ▼

ACT UP dinner

◀ page 1

their whistles at home and throw a festive, extraordinary party," declared Lauro. Participants in the first ACT UP action on Wall Street held a decade ago are expected to share their amusing anecdotes of that momentous day.

Organizers are making a special effort to contact former members of the other local chapter that ACT UP/Golden Gate once worked closely with, added Lauro.

People are being asked to rummage through their closets to find old (or not so old) ACT UP memorabilia to bring to the birthday party. There will be several prizes awarded, including honors for "best activist drag" and "best ACT UP memorabilia."

Lauro said there will be a memorabilia display, an exhibit of photographs, and other materials culled from ACT UP's archives. The displays will all speak to the crucial role ACT UP had in changing the course of history of the AIDS crisis.

San Francisco resident and AIDS activist Michael Petrelis was at that first ACT UP meeting in New York, and was one of the Wall Street 17. When asked to make a comment about his involvement in ACT UP, he said, "I wish we had the cure for AIDS by now – and thought we would have had a cure for AIDS by now."

Say 'Thank you'

The first ACT UP was formed March 24, 1987 when a group of activists gathered in New York City. [See related story.]

Nationally, the metamorphosis of AIDS activists became one of the most successful mass movements for social change. What started as a meeting of people in New York City quickly became a major voice for people with AIDS. A decade later, members continue to "ACT UP, fight back, fight

AIDS" across the country.

The ACT UP/Golden Gate chapter has done a lot since it formed in 1990, Lauro said. Among the long list of accomplishments are reductions in drug prices, and expanding access to numerous HIV/AIDS treatments; leading the way for federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of protease inhibitors; ensuring targeted prevention efforts; providing weekly AIDS treatment articles; and improving care for patients at Kaiser hospitals by forcing the giant health maintenance organization to provide access to viral load tests and human growth hormone.

"The time is long overdue for the numerable workers from all the more prosperous AIDS agencies forged by us putting our asses on the line when needed, and their clients, to do their part – to show up on March 10 and say, 'Thank you' to the activists whose skill, savvy, anger, and courage have left us a legacy that we can all be proud of," said Lauro.

Doctors, PWAs, executive directors, people swallowing free protease inhibitors or getting free viral load tests, support service workers, planning council members, nurses, and others who have benefited from ACT UP/Golden Gate's work but from whom the group seldom hears, are also urged to help honor the many achievements ACT UP has made in the last decade, organizers added. ▼

Tickets are available at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street. The birthday bash will be held at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond Street, at 18th Street. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information or to bring memorabilia items, call (415) 252-9266.

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Huddle up

by Jim Provenzano

The response to my "Why I Hate Pro Football" column was quite amazing. Many folk wrote letters, e-mailed each other and copied that article to their friends and enemies around Super Bowl time. It gives me great pleasure to undermine the patriarchy in any way shape or form.

The column was not, however, meant in any way to disparage the efforts of gay footballers, both amateur and pro. They are the ones risking life and limb on and off the field. To them I offer my constant admiration.

But all problematic athletic endeavors deserve a critique. One way is to offer a comparison between our older countries and their athletic variations. The best variation on football, is, of course, football. We call it rugby.

Rugby is football before it went American. It's funny, more violent, more sexy, stripped down, and reduced to the bare butt sport that football used to be.

In fact, before I so stridently trashed the corporate version of the game, I should have considered the charming description of American football given by David Starr Jordan, former president of Stanford University about a hundred years ago, who called football "Rugby's American pervert."

To paraphrase a recent rabid

letter-writer, my chops are already licking! Any form of perversion is welcome in sports, and thereby culture. It is only through perversion that variegation in behavior can be achieved. And it is through diversion, perversion, whatever, that our species will change and adapt, and survive, or else it will die off.

One sport that shows no sign of dying off is rugby, which, when compared to American football, seems quite perverted indeed. I love it.

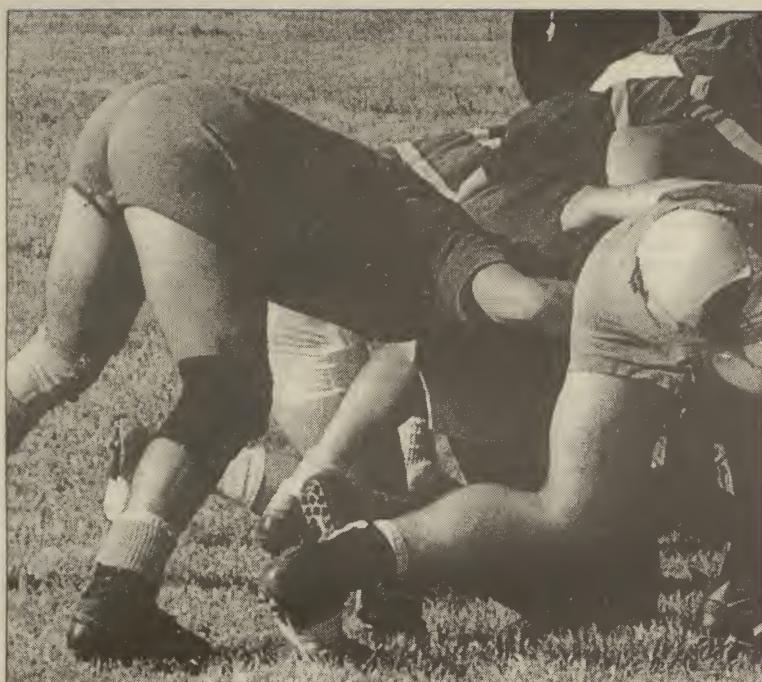
Let's start with fashion. Gone are the camouflage pads and puffs. Nope, these guys (and gals) are reduced to basic shirts and shorts, and some very short shorts at that. What more can a fan ask for than the vision of solid horse-like gams, with an all-too frequent cheek flash, or in the case of more active participation, mud-soaked and shredded garments?

Are we awake now?

I promise not to scrum in you...

The terminology is not easy to fathom, being that most of my study includes British publications, where the Queen's English gets tossed around more than that little pigskin.

Take the word scrum. Just say it aloud, will ya? Scrum. A cross between spit, scrotum, and cum? Whatever you think, it's actually that huddle for the ball that gives



Rugby in the raw: Big butts and shredded shorts.

fans a charming view of every player's posterior. Some even grab each other's posteriors. Being that this is a very demanding sport, and the players are fairly chunky, usually there's a lot to grab.

"On the pitch": when a player is actively playing rugby. This term has other sexual implications that are too obvious. But my general fa-

vorite (I couldn't find the term) is the moment when the athlete receiving the ball in the air gets hoisted up by his mates, each of them making fists, since open-handed grabs seem verboten. The gent resembles a statue being put up for display, and things tend to get grabbed at all points in such formations. Space forbids me showing the other amusing images obtained through high-speed photography.

The best local rugby-watching can be had at the soccer stadium and polo fields in Golden Gate Park. Men and women's teams practice there regularly. The homo ratio seems fairly low, though. But hey, there's no harm in watching!

How about a queer rugby league? Since Gay Games approach, it seems that the diversity of our interests should equally expand.

For a good field workout in the honest version of football, give the gay football teams a try. Even though the season's over, they do get together for practices. As far as I know, they do keep their pants on for practice.

Now that the massive marketing ritual of the Super Bowl is over with for another year, what are all those poor football addicts going to do, other than watch

highlight shows? Well, I guess that's what all those boring Sunday morning sports shows are for, a whole 'nother year of armchair quarterbacking.

Luckily there is a women flag football team. Their rep didn't get back to me in time for this article, but I'm sure they'd return a call from a women eager to rough it with the team.

Men who still want to actually play have limited gay group opportunities. According to my research, both the San Francisco Trojans Football team and the East Bay Gay/Bi Sports Players have both either disbanded or are in hiatus. Any active or former members are welcome to update me on that. Gay & bisexual men's Flag Touch Football is active, and they play in Louis Sutter Park, at University & Weyland, near McLaren Park, in San Francisco every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Go on down and get muddy! ▼

SF Women's Flag Football
meets Sundays 9:30 a.m. -3 p.m. at the Golden Gate Park Polo field, starting March 23, through May 18. For info, call (415) 282-4232.

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PAGE

Liberace

◀ page 13

\$95,000 to end the legal maneuvers.

By that time, Liberace's health had begun to waver from AIDS. Despite an increasingly gaunt appearance, the entertainer played to sold-out crowds in Radio City Music Hall, where he made a grand entrance by flying above the audience on cables. When questioned about Liberace's weight loss, his manager told the press that Liberace was on a "watermelon diet" and was in generally good health. Not until Liberace's coroner held a nationally televised press conference was AIDS revealed as the cause of death, and to this day, some of the devoted elderly women who conduct tours at the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas insist that Liberace's so-called homosexuality and AIDS are nothing but cruel ru-

mors about a talented bachelor.

Liberace's life was replete with contradictions about his sexuality. His autobiography states that he lost his virginity to a female singer in Milwaukee — yet he gives her the classically drag name of "Miss Bea Haven." He would introduce his lover to his audiences as his companion — yet he told the press that gays were trying to "assassinate" him with Thorson's lawsuit. With his extravagant costumes and flaming style, his life can be seen as a befuddled attempt to argue that you don't have to be gay to be campy. ▼

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*, he can be reached care of the B.A.R. or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

POLITICAL CALENDAR

Board of Supervisors
March 10, 17, 24, 31
2 p.m.;
City Hall,
401 Van Ness Avenue
Info: (415) 554-5184

HIV Prevention Planning Council
March 6, 27; 3-6 p.m.
Unitarian Church
1187 Franklin, at Geary
Info: (415) 554-9000

Health Commission
March 18; 3 p.m.
SF Dept. of Public Health
101 Grove Street, Room 300
Info: (415) 554-2666

ACT UP/Golden Gate
March 11, 18, 23; 7:30 p.m.
592 Castro Street
Info: (415) 252-9200

L/G/B/T Pride Celebration Committee
March 9 5 p.m.
1390 Market St., Suite 1225
Fox Plaza office building
Info: (415) 864-3733

Alice Toklas Democratic Club
March 10; 7 p.m.
Floogies Swamp Cafe
1686 Market Street, at Haight
Info: (415) 522-3809

Harvey Milk Democratic Club
March 25; 7-9 p.m.
Women's Building
3543 18th Street
Info: (415) 821-2217 ext. 2

Log Cabin Republican Club
Info: (415) 522-2944
Call and leave message.

Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA)
March 20; 7 p.m.
507B Divisadero
Info: (415) 273-1108

Coalition for Healthy Sex
March 11; 4:30 p.m.
SF AIDS office
25 Van Ness Avenue, 5th floor

Boy + Boy
Call (415) 908-6721
for information or
e-mail SQUIRMed@aol.com

LEGAL NOTICES

21, 1997.
March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211731
The following person(s) are doing business as SPECKLED EGG DESIGNS, 4221 20th St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94114; Arthur Scappaticci, 4221 20th St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94114; Mario Valdez, 4221 20th St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed Arthur Scappaticci. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 21, 1997. March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211782
The following person(s) are doing business as O'CONNORS, 2626 San Bruno Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134; Kenneth P. Brown, 3215 Camby Rd, Antioch, CA 94509; Carolyn S. Brown, 3215 Camby Rd, Antioch, CA 94509. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 21, 1997. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed Kenneth P. Brown. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 25, 1997. March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 210709

The following person(s) are doing business as THE KINSEY SICKS, 355 Arguello Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118; Irwin E. Keller, 355 Arguello Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118; Jerome Friedman, 71 Prosper Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; Maurice Kelly, 4517 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; Benjamin Schatz, 602 Fell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 9, 1997. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Irwin E. Keller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 16, 1997. Jan. 30, 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO. 0194243-00

The following person(s) has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as LEATHER ZONE, 2352 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on March 21, 1995.

Name and Address of registrant: CONSTRUCTION ZONE INC., 2352 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

This business was conducted by a corporation.

Signed: Gala T. Zholeno.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the San Francisco County on the date February 05, 1997. Gregory J. Diaz, County Clerk Recorder, by Keith Wong.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211215

The following person(s) are doing business as DAYNE ENTERPRISES, 1407 Sanchez Ave, Burlingame, CA 94010; Eric William Jones, 1407 Sanchez Ave, Burlingame, CA 94010. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed Eric Jones. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 4, 1997. Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 984517

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of WALTER EUGENE KILLEEN, JR. for change of name.

The application of WALTER EUGENE KILLEEN, JR. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that WALTER EUGENE KILLEEN, JR. has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to DARALT. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 13th day of March, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 6th day of February, 1997.

Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 984546

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of LAWRENCE JACK MURPHY for change of name.

The application of LAWRENCE JACK MURPHY for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that LAWRENCE JACK MURPHY has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to JACK MURPHY. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 27th day of March, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 7th day of February, 1997.

Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 984826

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of KRISTEN MICHELLE CAMERON for change of name.

The application of KRISTEN MICHELLE CAMERON for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that KRISTEN MICHELLE CAMERON has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to KRISTEN MICHELLE CAMERON PEACE. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 2nd day of June, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 21st day of February, 1997.

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 984827

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of WAYNE THOMAS PEACE DAVIS for change of name.

The application of WAYNE THOMAS PEACE DAVIS for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that WAYNE THOMAS PEACE DAVIS has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to WAYNE THOMAS CAMERON PEACE. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 2nd day of June, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 21st day of February, 1997.

Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211427

The following person(s) are doing business as AFFILIATED LIMOUSINE SERVICE, 584 Castro St., Suite #395, San Francisco, CA 94114; Robert P. Fremen, 135 Gardine Dr., #110, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 11, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Robert P. Fremen. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 11, 1997.

Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211422

The following person(s) are doing business as PENNCTONIA SERVICE, 25 Penncton Dr #130, Daly City, CA 94015; Waled Ahmad Albawahy, 25 Penncton Dr. #130, Daly City, CA 94015.

Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Waled Albawahy.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 11, 1997. Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211523

The following person(s) are doing business as RUNWAY, 535 Stockton St. #84, San Francisco, CA 94108; Joy Johnson, 535 Stockton St. #84, San Francisco, CA 94108; Robert Radosta, 96 Museum Way, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Joy Johnson and Robert Radosta. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 4, 1997. Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211457

The following person(s) are doing business as THE JEWEL THEATRE, 655 Geary St., San Francisco, CA 94102; Nathaniel Frederick Roberts, 1420 Shadrack St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 13, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Alison Heather. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 13, 1997.

Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211400

The following person(s) are doing business as THE BLUE PINEGONE, 1214 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94131-1822; Mark Richard Jawig, 1214 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94131-1822. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 11, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Mark R. Jawig. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 11, 1997.

Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211400

The following person(s) are doing business as THE BLUE PINEGONE, 1214 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94131-1822; Mark Richard Jawig, 1214 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94131-1822. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 11, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Mark R. Jawig. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 11, 1997.

Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211414

The following person(s) are doing business as THE JEWEL THEATRE, 655 Geary St., San Francisco, CA 94102; Nathaniel Frederick Roberts, 1420 Shadrack St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 13, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Alison Heather. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 13, 1997.

Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211414

The following person(s) are doing business as THE LUNDBERG GROUP, 49 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117-3917; Peter Mikkel Lundberg, 49 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117-3917. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 26, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Peter M. Lundberg. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 26, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211830

The following person(s) are doing business as OUN TOWN, 49 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117-3917; Peter Mikkel Lundberg, 49 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117-3917. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 26, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Peter M. Lundberg. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 26, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211831

The following person(s) are doing business as THE LUNDBERG GROUP, 49 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117-3917; Peter Mikkel Lundberg, 49 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117-3917. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 26, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Peter M. Lundberg. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 26, 1997.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211701

The following person(s) are doing business as HOWARD'S SHOES FOR CHILDREN, Stonestown Galleria, 3251 20th Ave #149, San Francisco, CA 94132; Thomas Howard, Howard's Shoes For Children (CA), 187 Stanford Shopping Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94034. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed T. Howard (V.P.). This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February

94034.

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 983649

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE

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Glen Helfand on Joel Sternfeld, and Linnea Due on AIDS writer Stephen Schwartzberg's 'A Crisis of Meaning.' pages 52, 53

Queer films from China, Japan, India, and Korea in NAATA festival. page 44



Chad Jones delivers one-two punch to 'Blade to the Heat.' page 47



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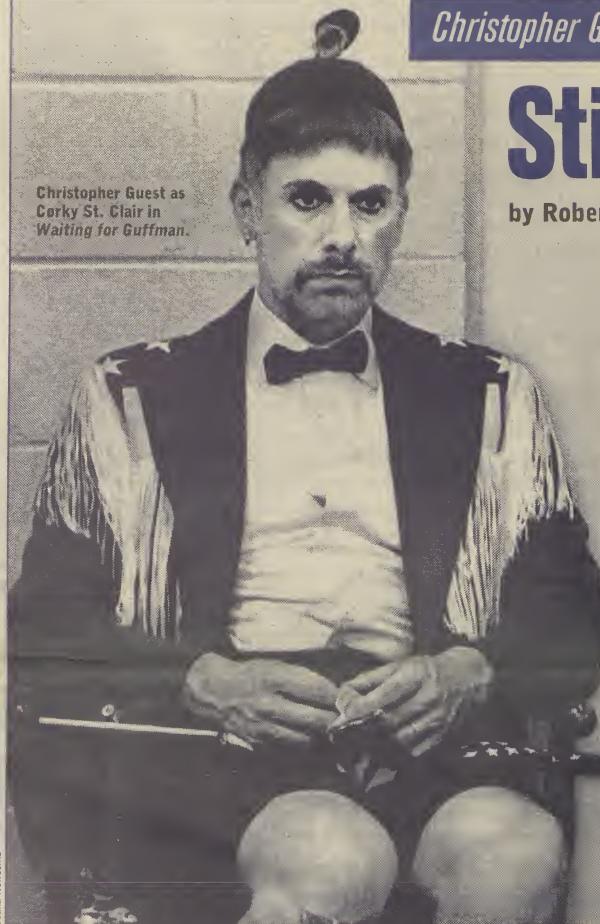
Vol. 27 • No. 10 • 6 March 1997

BAY AREA REPORTER

Christopher Guest parodies Middle America in 'Waiting for Guffman'

Still life, with queer

by Robert Julian



Donna Newcomb

What hath Rob Reiner wrought? In 1984, *This Is Spinal Tap* featured Christopher Guest as the lead guitarist in Reiner's *faux* documentary about a rock group on tour. Now Guest is back as co-writer, director and star of *Waiting for Guffman* — a pseudo-documentary that parodies the pathetic efforts of a small Midwestern town to produce a musical about the town's history.

Guffman resembles an extended *Saturday Night Live* skit, full of satire and irony, but — like any really good *SNL* sketch — *Guffman* frequently skirts so close to reality that laughter arises not only from the dialogue, but also from the recognition of the frequently lunatic behavior encountered in everyday life.

It's hard to imagine anyone who won't laugh out loud in several places during Christopher Guest's *tour de farce*. ▶

Hand-held documentary cameras and onscreen interviews tell the story of Blaine, Missouri's 150th anniversary celebration, commemorated by a new original musical, *Red, White and Blaine* — written, directed and choreographed by Corky St.

Clair (Guest). The cameras follow artiste St. Clair and the motley crew of amateurs he assembles to tell the musical story of Blaine, the footstool capital of America.

The all-singing, all-dancing ensemble includes the local dentist (Eugene Levy), two travel agents (Fred Willard and Catherine

O'Hara), a soda jerk (Parker Posey), an auto mechanic (Matt Keeslar) and a taxidermist (Lewis Arquette). St. Clair engages in a minor turf battle with his musical director (Bob Balaban), and eventually he walks out on the production midway through rehearsals when the city council refuses his request for \$100,000 in grant money. Temps flare, personalities clash, and tension mounts as the star-struck local cast anxiously awaits the opening night arrival of Mr. Guffman, the representative of a big-time Broadway production company.

Close to the edge

Director Guest coaxes strong performances from his entire cast, with each actor playing it close to the edge without crossing the line. Eugene Levy, as the Jewish dentist, gets the most comic mileage from his character — an awkward bore who studied the class clown in high school to learn how to be the life of the party. But the married travel agents (Willard and O'Hara), referred to as the "Lunts of Blaine," offer a killer audition piece — a duet of "Midnight at the Oasis."

At the end, the documentary camera follows the cast members after the show closes, providing the richest moments of the film. As it turns out, *Red, White and Blaine* is a seminal event in the lives of these small-town nabobs. Their brush with stardom causes some of them to uproot themselves from their friends and

page 43 ▶

'Boys Life 2' is four takes on queer life

Quadratic equation

by Gary Morris

Short films are in some ways the ultimate cinematic consumable — a brief sketch of an experience that, like a poem or a short story, can suggest a whole world in a few deft strokes. Of course consumable implies disposable, which is exactly what happens to work that often fails to make a lasting impression and can't find venues outside the occasional film festival or the filmmaker's living room.

Boys Life 2 is the ideal package to counter the notion that short films are inherently trivial and unmarketable. The producers have put together four strong pieces dealing with contemporary gay life and released them as a feature. The films deal with controversial topics like teen sexuality and homosexual revenge, and avoid the nagging problems of insularity and self-absorption that afflict so much of gay filmmaking.

page 41 ▶

Travis Sher, Gabriel Fuller, and Ryan Veronico in Nickolas Perry's *Must Be The Music*, one of four short films in *Boys Life 2*.



SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



Viewpoints in CMV

No. 1 in a series

PREVENTION OF CMV DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH HIV

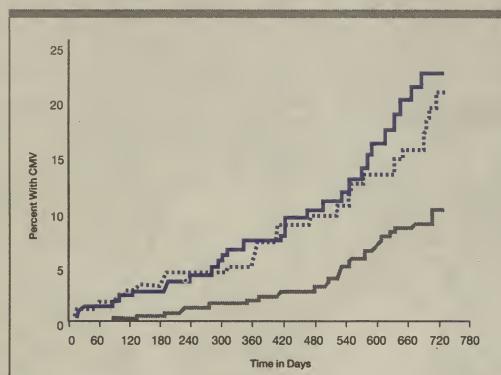
A Focus on CMV Retinitis

CMV: A Serious Infection in Immunocompromised Patients

Cytomegalovirus (CMV), a virus of the herpes family, is the most common serious viral opportunistic pathogen in HIV-positive patients. It is estimated that >95% of patients with AIDS are CMV seropositive,¹ with up to 46% developing CMV retinitis, which may be sight-threatening.²⁻⁶ In one study, disseminated CMV was found at autopsy in roughly 9 of every 10 in this patient population.⁶

Acute infection with CMV is usually asymptomatic and the prevalence of CMV antibody in the adult population may be as great as 50% to 80%.⁷ As with other herpes viruses, CMV remains latent within the host and may cause infection if and when the immune system becomes compromised. Prospective natural history studies have shown that during the course of HIV infection, as CD4 counts fall (Figure 1), the virus may be reactivated, resulting in viremia.⁸ During viremia, CMV may disseminate and seed a variety of organs, leading to many life- or sight-threatening conditions, including retinitis, colitis, esophagitis, hepatitis, pneumonitis, adrenalitis and generalized wasting.

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier estimation of the proportion of patients developing CMV disease by baseline CD4 cell count.



Solid blue line = <50 cells/mm³; dotted line = 50-99 cells/mm³; solid gray line = ≥100 cells/mm³. The difference between the lower and upper two lines was significant by log-rank test ($p<0.001$); difference between two upper lines was not significant ($p<0.05$). From Gallant, et al. *J Infect Dis.* 1992;166:1223-1227 with permission.⁸

CMV: The Most Common Cause of Vision Loss Associated with AIDS^{7,9}

Often referred to as a "silent" problem, CMV frequently begins as asymptomatic peripheral disease. Untreated CMV retinitis is a progressive disease, which most often ultimately becomes a bilateral disease.¹⁰ Without treatment, CMV retinitis may obliterate the entire retina in 3 to 6 months.⁹

In the past, management of CMV retinitis relied solely on early diagnosis and aggressive lifelong intravenous therapy. In January 1995, an oral formulation of an effective therapeutic agent, ganciclovir, became available for maintenance treatment of CMV retinitis. In October 1995, oral ganciclovir also became available as preventive therapy against CMV disease in individuals with advanced HIV infection at risk for developing CMV disease.

Promising Results from the First Oral CMV Prevention Study

The results of Roche Study 1654, the first oral CMV prevention study, were presented at the Second National Conference on Human Retroviruses and Related Infections in January 1995.¹¹ This double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study was designed to determine the safety and efficacy of oral ganciclovir (3 grams/day) for the prevention of CMV disease. The study included CMV-seropositive or urine culture-positive, HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts ≤100 cells/mm³ and a prior AIDS-defining opportunistic infection and those with <50 cells/mm³ without a prior opportunistic infection.¹²

Nearly 50% Lower Risk of Developing CMV Disease After Prophylaxis Treatment with Oral Ganciclovir¹³

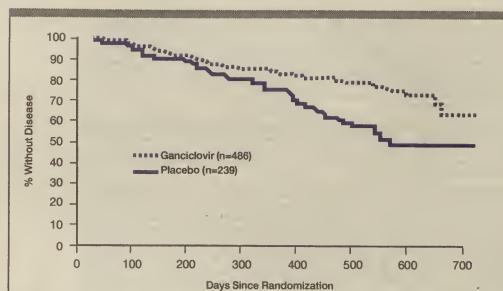
Over an 18-month study period, the incidence of CMV disease was significantly lower in the ganciclovir-treated group vs. placebo ($p<0.05$).¹³ The risk of developing CMV disease was reduced by 49% in patients treated with oral ganciclovir (20% of the ganciclovir patients developed CMV disease vs 39% on placebo).^{13,14} (Table 1).

Table 1. Incidence of CMV Disease at 6, 12 and 18 Months (Kaplan-Meier Estimates) in Study 1654 Patients¹⁴

	Incidence of CMV Disease (no. still at risk)	
	Ganciclovir	Placebo
6 months	8% (397)	11% (190)
12 months	14% (225)	26% (92)
18 months	20% (27)	39% (9)

In addition to decreasing the incidence of CMV disease, oral ganciclovir significantly delayed the time to the development of disease (Figure 2).¹¹

Figure 2. Time to development of CMV disease.



Number of patients	Number of patients at risk, months ¹⁵						
	0	3	6	9	12	15	18
Ganciclovir	486	452	397	326	225	112	27
Placebo	239	214	190	149	92	35	9

Because of the significant benefit of oral ganciclovir in preventing CMV disease compared to placebo, Study 1654 was halted at a planned interim analysis.

Placebo Patients Were Twice as Likely to Develop Sight-threatening Retinitis¹⁴

Patients in the placebo group were twice as likely to develop zone 1 (sight-threatening) retinitis as patients treated with oral ganciclovir.¹⁴ Among subjects who developed CMV retinitis, 39% of placebo patients developed zone 1 disease vs 16% of those on ganciclovir.¹⁴ There was a similar incidence of bilateral presentation of retinitis in the treatment and placebo groups.¹⁴

Results from Study 1654 demonstrated that oral ganciclovir prophylaxis significantly reduced the incidence of, and delayed time to development of, CMV disease in HIV-infected persons at risk.^{11,13}

CMV Resistance¹⁶

As part of Study 1654, cultures (primarily urine) were available for 437 patients who received preventive treatment with oral ganciclovir for ≥ 90 days. Of these, 132 had at least 1 positive culture. Eighteen of these isolates have been tested for reduced sensitivity, and 1 was found to be resistant to ganciclovir. The resistant isolate was associated with subsequent treatment failure. Viral resistance has also been observed with prolonged treatment for retinitis with intravenous ganciclovir.

Manageable Side Effect Profile

Oral ganciclovir has a manageable side effect profile, but was associated with granulocytopenia, anemia and thrombocytopenia.¹⁶ In Study 1654 ganciclovir-treated patients were significantly more likely to develop neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count < 500 cells/mm³, 10% vs 6%).¹⁶ Colony stimulating factors can help manage ganciclovir-related neutropenia. Other adverse events included diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, stomach upset, loss of appetite, headache, dizziness, tremor, tingling sensation in the fingers and weakness.¹⁶ Creatinine elevations 25% over baseline levels were also observed.¹⁶

Summary

Prevention of CMV disease has been a highly sought-after goal. Compared with placebo, oral ganciclovir (3 grams/day) has been shown to significantly reduce the incidence and time to development of CMV disease among patients with advanced HIV infection.^{11,16} There was also a decreased proportion of zone 1 (sight-threatening) retinitis in the ganciclovir-treated group.

Oral ganciclovir represents a clinically important advance in the prevention of CMV disease, including CMV retinitis, for those with HIV.

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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

From the GLAAD office this week we've learned that comedian **Ellen DeGeneres**, otherwise known as **Superditherer**, will be one of the glittering celebrities scheduled to appear at the 8th Annual GLAAD Media Awards, set for March 16 in LA (ceremonies will also be held in New York and Washington, DC). Hmmm. Are we to take DeGeneres' appearance at the GLAAD Awards as confirmation of something she has yet to publicly admit, or is this just Chapter 10,001 in the ongoing and now exceedingly tedious Is-She-Or-Isn't-*She* Game? Also on the guest list for the GLAAD Awards is, amazingly, **Lily Tomlin**, AKA **Superditherer II**.

Flash: the latest news on the DeGeneres coming out episode, airing April 30, is that **Laura Dern** will play the love interest who convinces Ellen to come out.

Marathon of masturbators

Fresh out of ideas about what to do in the month of May? Well, those sweet folks at Good Vibrations, San Francisco's legendary sex toy, book and video store, have a suggestion: masturbate. Yes, for the second consecutive year, GV has declared the month of May National Masturbation Month, and to get folks in the spirit of things the GV staff has put together a calendar of "exciting activities" devoted to celebrating onanism. The kick-off event is a "Salute to Masturbation" video screening on May 8 at the Roxie Cinema, in which attendees will be regaled with clips of memorable masturbation scenes from X-rated and educational videos. The event will be hosted by Miss Masturbation herself, **Carol Queen**.

To keep people in the spirit of things throughout the month, each Good Vibrations store will showcase a "Masturbators' Hall of Fame" that will honor those brave celebrities who have been willing to stand up in support of masturbation, namely: **Dennis Rodman**, **Cybill Shepherd**, **Bruce Willis**, **Madonna**, **the Artist Formerly Known as Prince**, **Seinfeld**, **Roseanne**, and, of course, **Dr. Joyce Ely**.

Finally, GV is hoping everyone will participate in their "Top 10 People To Masturbate To Contest," in which folks are being asked to send in their list of the top 10 people they think about while practicing the art of self-love. A random drawing will determine winners of the contest, who will receive \$100 gift certificates to Good Vibrations. For more information about National Masturbation Month, call Good Vibrations at 974-8980.

Prime wanker

One person missing from Good Vibrations' "Masturbators' Hall of Fame" is British actress **Helen Mirren**, star of the acclaimed *Some Mother's Son* and PBS detective series, *Prime Suspect*. In a recent edition of New York's *Time Out* magazine, Mirren told interviewer **Stephan Talty**, "There's nothing wrong with a good wank every now and then," a statement she underscored with a laugh and the "cock of an eyebrow."

Mirren made her confession while discussing her taste in porn. "I much prefer *Hustler* to *Playboy*," she told Talty, "because at



Helen Mirren: "There's nothing wrong with a good wank now and then."

least *Hustler* is not hypocritical. *Hustler* is a wanker's magazine — get that sperm out, get it over and done with."

Fans of *Prime Suspect* will be disheartened to learn that *Prime Suspect 5* was the last installment of the series. When asked if she thought there might be a reunion down the road, Mirren suggested it wasn't out of the question, but added, "I want people to think — especially me to think — that I've moved on to something else."

Writer's block
In a recent *New York Times*

magazine piece, **Andrew Sullivan** asked the question, What do we write about when AIDS ends? a query inspired by recent positive developments in the protease inhibitor-led war on AIDS. Sullivan's question was reiterated in last Sunday's *Examiner* by **Bill Hayes**, who confessed that turning the corner on the AIDS epidemic might translate for him as the loss of his "best material." Well, literary friends, in case you haven't noticed, there's no shortage of things in this universe to write about, though we understand the difficulty of seeing the obvious if one's head is ensconced up one's own butt. Frankly, gentlemen, we don't care what you write about as long as you stop writing about yourselves.

next page ▶

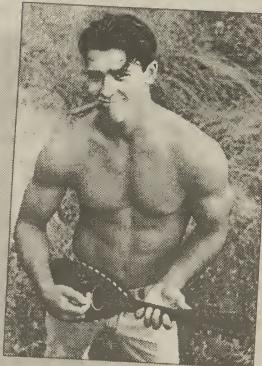
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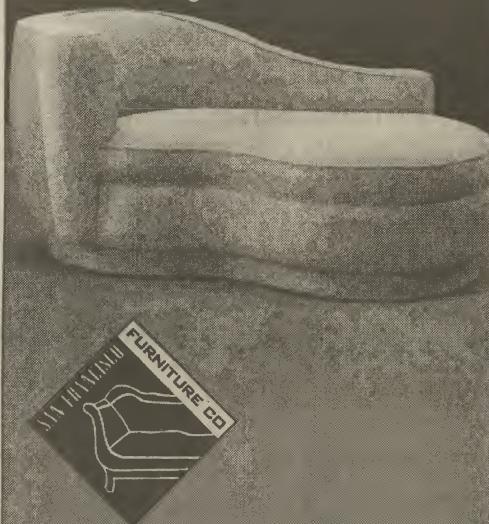
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Out There

◀ previous page

No accident

If media mogul **Ted Turner** had really been serious about wanting to put the kibosh on **David Cronenberg's** film *Crash*, he would have kept his big mouth shut and let the film go the way of most art movies, i.e. oblivion. But as it stands now, Turner's Morning-in-America-style denunciation of *Crash* late last year has only succeeded in focusing an enormous spotlight on this singular film about the human fascination with death and the eroticization of danger.

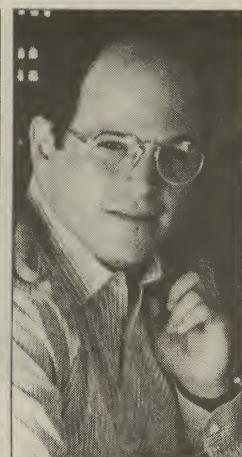
In the film, when James Ballard (**James Spader**) survives a near-fatal car accident with Dr. Helen Remington (**Holly Hunter**), he suddenly becomes fascinated with the odd propensity between danger, sex, and death. Ballard and Remington — now a couple — then become involved with a stranger (**Elias Koteas**) who calls himself the "nightmare angel of the highways," and whose own obsession with the erotic possibilities of car wrecks is so notorious he is appointed leader of a car crash cult whose members get off on watching test-collision films and re-enacting famous car crashes.

In an interview in a British film journal, Cronenberg said of the film, "It's a dangerous film in many ways. It does violence to people's understanding of human relationships and does violence to people's understanding of eroticism. But I think that's a primary function of art, to do violence to the little cocoon that we sometimes find ourselves enveloped in."

Ironically, while Turner called the film "offensive and sick," the powers-that-be at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival awarded *Crash* a Special Jury Prize for "originality, daring, and audacity." Of course, the French have such a category. *Crash* opens here Friday, March 21.

LVC comin' our way

If you read that charming piece about San Francisco in the *New York Times* travel section last week, then you probably already know that the opening night feature of this year's SF International Film Festival (April 24 through May 8) is the long-awaited film version of **Terrence McNally's** *Love Valour Compassion*, a by turns comic and heartwarming tale of eight gay friends who gather to love, laugh and care for one another over the course of three summer weekends in Upstate New York. The film, directed by debut film director **Joe Mantello**, who also directed the Tony-Award-winning stage version of the play, stars most of the original Broadway cast, including **Randy Becker, John Glover, Stephen**



Jason Alexander

Spinella, Stephen Bogardus and Justin Kirk. *Seinfeld* star **Jason Alexander** will play the role of Buzz. If you miss *LVC* at this year's SIFF, you can see the film when it opens in commercial release in May.

Coming to the Castro

A while back we moaned in print about not being able to see the comprehensive **Fassbinder** retrospective that played NYC's MOMA last month and which is currently screening in LA. No sooner did we get into print with that lament than Castro Theatre Programmer **Anita Monga** called to let us know that the Fassbinder showcase will be coming to the Castro Theatre in late July and early August, right after the Jewish Film Festival. There are 45 features (and some shorts) in all, including several Fassbinder films never before seen in the U.S.



Peter Brandenhoff

B is for beautiful

Many's the time we've nearly dropped our lorgnette at the sight of San Francisco Ballet dancer **Peter Brandenhoff** bounding across the stage in glutinous region-tightening tights. Well, if that's the effect of seeing the dancer from a distance, you can only imagine what it's like seeing him up close. Indeed, the Brandenhoff created something of a sensation when he walked into the Cowell Theatre several weeks ago for the Focus Achievement Awards accompanied by colleague and gal-pal **Elizabeth Loscavio**. Heads turned and martinis were spilled as queens and het females alike began boozing over at the sight of this curly-haired beauty with the dancing eyes, the unaffected smile, and the cheekbones of a Michelangelo fantasy.

"Isn't he one of us?" a rueful queen in purple queried. Alas, no, but we can dream, can't we? Doubtless, reverie will abound this Sunday (March 9, 2 p.m.) at

the Center for the Arts, when Mr. Brandenhoff performs — *shirtless* — in San Francisco Ballet's *Shogun*, **Ivonice Satie's** scintillating duet for two male dancers. Last week, arts reporter **Stephanie von Buchau** wrote of the piece, "It passes from macho titillation to gender-bending deliriousness when the two guys whip golden fans from their waistbands and fall over each other in orgasmic bliss." For tickets, call the SFB box office at 865-2000.



Franz Schubert

Was he or wasn't he?

In a recent issue of *The New Yorker*, **Alex Ross** weighed the question of **Franz Schubert's** alleged homosexuality. Some evidence, Ross wrote, suggests an ongoing affair between the composer and a "misogynistic, reclusive, morose, and in all likelihood homosexual poet" named **Johann Mayrhofer** when Schubert was in his mid-20s. Ross observes that during a brief period in which the two shared an apartment in Vienna, Schubert set a fair number of Mayrhofer's poems to music, and that "something peculiarly unsettled" in the music mirrors both the character of the poet and the composer. Mayrhofer and Schubert even collaborated on an unfinished opera, *Adrast*, which is unique, according to Ross, because it may "contain one of the few same-sex love arias in opera."

The debate over Schubert's sexuality heated up in 1989, when biographer and musicologist **Maynard Solomon** published a scathing essay entitled, "Franz Schubert and the Peacocks of *Benvenuto Cellini*," which suggests the composer was not only gay but was instrumental in creating a queer avant-garde in Vienna, Schubert's birthplace. Solomon based his theory not only on the Mayrhofer relationship but on entries in Schubert's diaries that related the composer's being "indifferent to the charms of the fair sex" and having "a dominating aversion for the daughters of Eve." Solomon was further convinced of the composer's lavender leanings by an entry in the diary of one of Schubert's contemporaries, **Eduard von Bauernfeld**, who wrote that "Schubert is half sick (he needs 'young peacocks,' like Benvenuto Cellini)." Peacocks, Solomon had observed, was Cellini's encoded expression for young homosexuals with whom he'd had his way.

Of course, no one will ever know for sure the truth of the composer's sexual preference, and though it ultimately doesn't matter either, it's interesting to speculate how the outsider status of the homosexual may have served as muse to this gifted genius. ▼

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FILM

J.D. Cerna as Jack Gudmanson in Mark Christopher's *Alkali, Iowa*.**Boys Life 2**

◀ Arts cover

Nickolas Perry's slick, colorful *Must Be the Music* opens the show. The setting is the sacred space of the disco, and the players are a group of four teenage pals — three gay and one straight — out for a night on the town, and sex if they're lucky. While the film lacks dramatic punch, Perry's prowling camera captures the fluid sexuality and tribalism of teenage dance culture and the backbiting among the boys as two of them vie for the favors of an alluring trick.

Mega-hunk Vincent D'Onofrio is familiar from the recent critical favorite — and box-office disaster — *The Whole Wide World*, in which he played a sexually repressed pulp writer. In Tom DeCerchio's *Nunzio's Second Cousin*, he's Sgt. Tony Randoza, a studly cop whose street-corner make-out session with his black leather queen boyfriend is interrupted by a group of teenage gay-bashers. To their dismay, he whips out a gun, loudly degrades them, then orders Jimmy (Miles Perlich) to come to his house the following night for what might or might not be a forced fuck. Director DeCerchio milks the black humor here — on their "date," Sgt. Tony waves a big salami in his face and bellows, "I bet you thought I invited you here to fuck you in the ass!" — but also subtly, and surprisingly, undercuts our sympathy for Sgt. Tony by humanizing the basher. Eileen Brennan adds spice as his cackling, clueless mother.

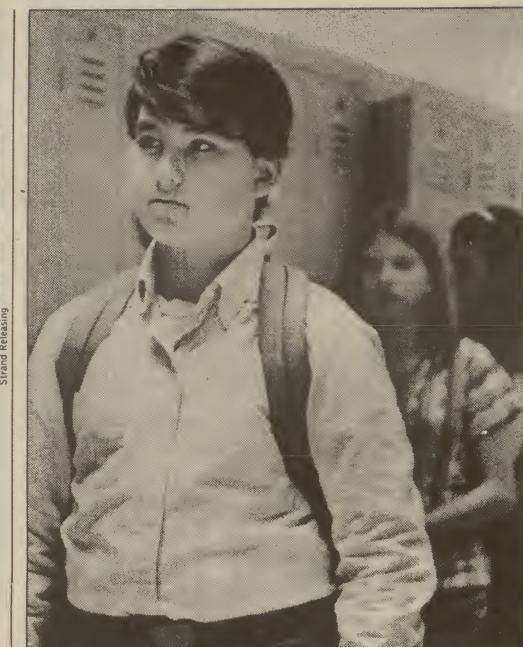
Unlike the first two shorts, Mark Christopher's brilliantly measured *Alkali, Iowa* has the enticingly rough look of an authentic independent film. A young farmer, Jack Gudmanson (J.D. Cerna), accidentally discovers his dead father was gay. A middle-aged queen named "Blondie" (Kent Broadhurst) mysteriously appears with ritualistic regularity at the edge of the Gudmanson property, but is driven off by Jack's rabidly homophobic grandfather. The film subtly pulls together the threads of a hidden gay identity — both father's and son's — as Jack is lured to a cruisy meadow, confronts Blondie, and puts on the army uniform of his handsome father, whom we see smiling cryptically in *faux* 8mm footage. Christopher shows enormous skill in implying a vast realm of experience just outside the cinematic frame, and we can only hope that he gets the money to turn this into a feature film.

The crowning work in *Boys Life 2* is Peggy Rajski's dazzling *Trevor*, which earned an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short in 1994. The usual "Afterschool Special" clichés about Sensitive Youth are gently mocked in this black-comic look at a 13-year-old boy coming to terms with his homosexuality.

Trevor (Brett Barsky) is a chubby drama queen obsessed with Diana Ross and his straight best friend. His moods vary from pompous self-recriminations ("I'm a pest too horrible to think about!") to starry-eyed yearnings for romance, but he's always charming and articulate. His mock-suicides are clever send-ups of theatrical teenage angst, particularly when he lies in a bathtub, a towel around his head, spots of stage blood on

the floor, and a single white feather in his limp hand. Trevor's words have the authentic ring of a precocious teen — "We looked at his sperm under a microscope and saw a lot of crazy activity!" — and his eventual coming out is sweet satisfaction indeed. ▼

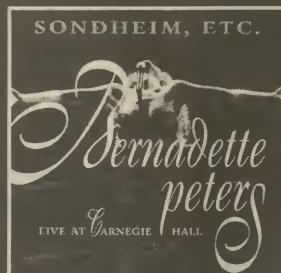
Boys Life 2 plays March 7 through 13 at the Castro Theatre.

Brett Barsky in Peggy Rajski's *Trevor*.

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Two students practice the arts of love in Mira Nair's overwrought *Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love*.

Kama Sutra: unconscious camp

by Gary Morris

In some quarters, fidelity in translating one art form into another is considered an end in itself and thus is highly prized. Director Mira Nair's *Kama Sutra*, a cheesy version of a classic Hindu love manual, is being touted as a faithful adaptation, but that may be its only virtue. The director of *Salaam Bombay* started showing signs of aesthetic distress a couple years ago with *Mis-*

sissippi Masala and *The Perez Family*, but nothing in those movies could have prepared us for this mangy dog.

The film centers on a childhood rivalry that extends into adulthood between upper-class snob Tara (Sarita Choudhury) and her lower-class playmate Maya (Indira Varma). Tara is set to marry "the king," Raj Singh (Naveen Andrews), when Maya secretly fucks her friend's intended. Banished from the palace, Maya wanders off to a sort of sex school, where she is taught some of the positions all of us remember from the blacklight poster days of the '60s. Since there are no men at the school, the gals practice on each other, so we at least get a few scenes of lesbian liplocking and mock-screwing. Tara meets her "true love," a court sculptor named Jai (Ramon Tikaram), a long-haired mini-

stud with whom she swaps such blandishing profundities as, "honor and shame are two sides of the same coin!"

Kama Sutra has the seamy plushness of a Hugh Hefner production; indeed, it follows the *Playboy* aesthetic to the letter in employing both male and female nudity. Yet, while you'd expect equal time for men and women in what is billed as a cinematic sex manual, the camera seems most interested in female anatomy, largely ignoring the fetching king and the endearing, zany little Jai. Poor as it is, the filmmakers shouldn't despair — the film will surely have a limited afterlife on the midnight movie circuit as unconscious camp. ▼

Kama Sutra opens March 7 at the Bridge Theatre and elsewhere in the Bay Area.

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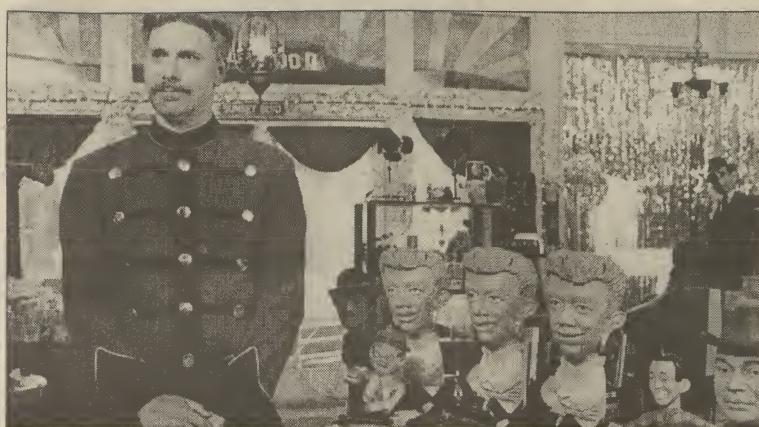
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FILM

Christopher Guest stars as Blaine, Missouri's leading thespian, Corky St. Clair, in *Waiting for Guffman*.**Guffman**

◀ Arts cover

family and strike out on an entirely new path in life. The decision-making process behind their choices is a classic and hilarious distillation of clueless humanity.

The script for *Waiting for Guffman*, written by Guest and Levy, is a paradigm of successful parody. It is a quintessential portrayal of Midwestern foibles in the farcical tradition of Moliere — without all the door slamming.

The film's greatest success is probably Guest's creation of Corky St. Clair, the swishy, small-town queen who is respected by the yokels because he spent ten years living in Manhattan and, *ipso facto*, is very talented and artistic. Wisely, the film never acknowledges Corky's sexual incli-

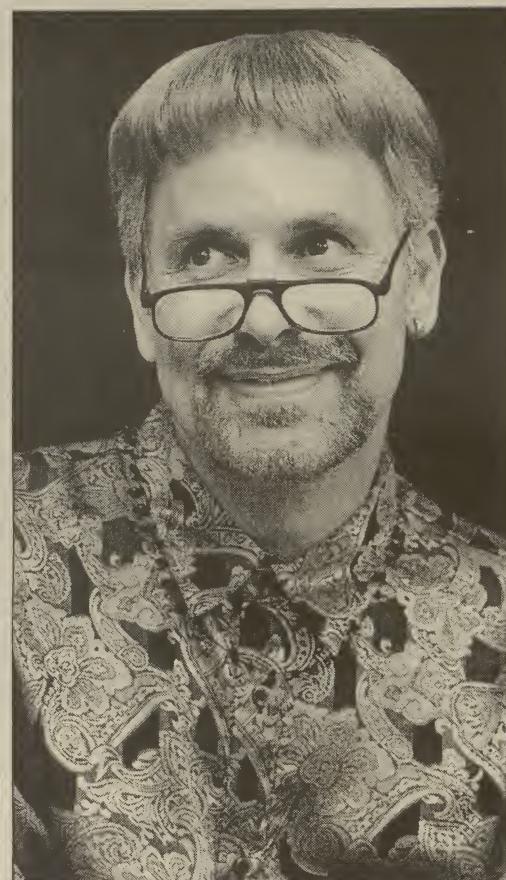
nation, but Guest's portrayal remains pregnant with homosexual possibilities. One character innocently observes that Corky is married (he wears a wedding band), but no one has ever seen or heard from his wife. And when Corky goes to the local garage to recruit hunky mechanic Johnny Savage for his cast, the hidden agenda requires no explanation.

Corky St. Clair, a character that could be offensive to gay people, manages to avoid the potential pitfalls. Yes, Corky sports a Dutch-boy haircut and a goatee, and he wears flamboyant outfits that even the Artist Formerly Known as Prince could not get away with. But the recognition factor will run high for anyone who has known a poorly educated, minimally talented, star-struck queer who gave up the Big City and returned to the rural

closet. Christopher Guest's creation is not mean-spirited; his Corky is more archetype than stereotype.

The *faux* documentary has a certain limited appeal, especially when directors like Michael Moore (*Roger and Me*) and Errol Morris (*Gates of Heaven*) can produce the real thing with just as much humor and even more insight. The genre can also veer toward a smug self-consciousness — witness Dirk Shafer's recent vain-glorious centerfold opus, *Man of the Year*. But with *Waiting for Guffman*, Christopher Guest sticks close to the tone of Reiner's *This Is Spinal Tap*; the result is an amusing trifle, worthy of a Saturday afternoon goof. ▼

Waiting for Guffman opens March 7 at the Lumiere.



Christopher Guest's corky is more archetype than stereotype.

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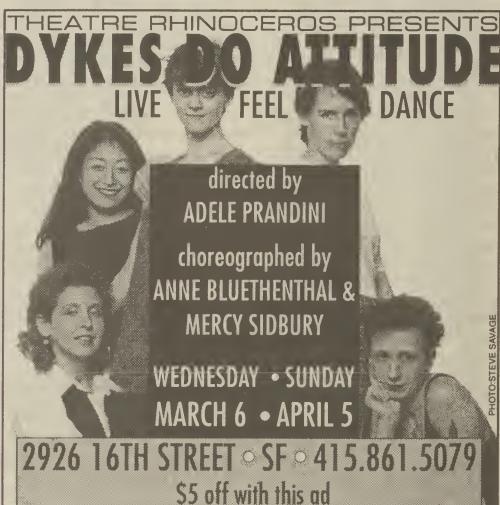
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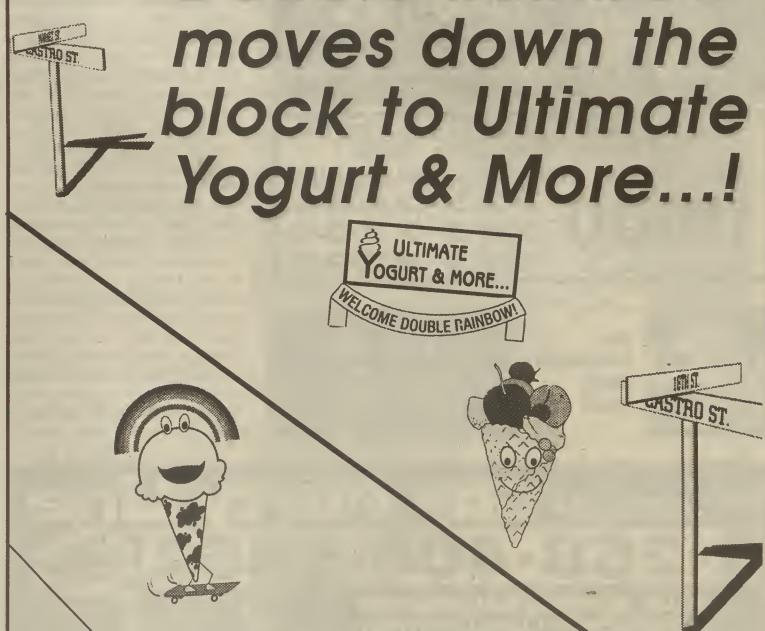
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Shabana Azmi (Radha) and Nandita Das (Sita) in Deepa Mehta's *Fire*.

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15th Asian American Film Festival
attracts work by queer filmmakers from
India, China, Japan and Korea.

by Gary Morris

There is no better example than the United States of a dominant culture imposing narrow definitions on those who live outside the sacred circles of power. In this demonizing process, union workers are denounced as lazy opportunists, the poor are labeled as evil welfare leeches, and immigrants are branded as bloodsuckers on the body politic. Asians have long been victims of this phenomenon, with Western attitudes toward them circumscribed by hoary images of submissive geishas, treacherous "Japs," and opium-smoking "Chinamen." America is arguably in a transition period with regard to such imagery — since it's no longer acceptable to portray Asian people in traditionally racist ways, they're simply no longer employed as actors. (Some will recall the brouhaha several years ago over the play *Miss Saigon*, when quite reasonable objections to white "yellowface" actors caused

the producers to shut down the U.S. production rather than employ real Asian actors.)

Large-scale events like the 15th Asian American Film Festival are crucial in helping the culture shift from this disturbing silence to a more visionary phase, where Asian faces can be seen and Asian voices heard. To this end, the festival has brought together a cho-

For some of these filmmakers, defining the self requires a look into the netherworld of the family. In *Private Wars* (Philippines, 1996), director Nick Deocampo attempts to locate his missing father, a former communist guerrilla and abusive drunk. What is fascinating in this sometimes too sentimental work is the recreation of Deocampo's childhood terror

The 15th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival runs March 6-13 at AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres, World Theatre, the San Francisco Art Institute, and Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley. For information, call 863-0814. Tickets can be purchased at the NAATA festival office, 346 Ninth Street, or through the festival Website (<http://www.sirius.com/~naata/exhibit/sfiaff97>).

rus of voices not only from the U.S., but from places as far away as Mongolia, Korea, India, China, and Japan. For good measure, several gay and lesbian features and shorts programs have been thrown into the mix.

Autobiography, the simple act of self-declaration, is an automatic challenge to the status quo, and many of the works in this showcase mine this rich vein. In the shorts program Queer Potion #9, Margarita Alcantara's *Fuckin' Chink* (U.S., 1996) uses a riot grrrl sensibility to put to rest the fantasy of submissive "Oriental" women. The central character strikes a memorable note when she pitifully denounces her childhood harassers, "who were white and ignorant as fuck." In Christopher's *Chronicles* (U.S., 1997), transgendered director Christopher Lee reminds us of the home truth that can never be said too often: "You are the biologist!" In both films, transformation comes about through action. The commodification of the Asian woman is explored in David Kalal's brilliant deconstruction *Love Song for Persis K* (U.S., 1995); the title refers to Indian actress and model Persis Khambalia, a familiar face from *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*.

of the man who "drove me to assume another character by dressing in mother's clothes" — a fantastic affirmation of the mystical power of the trappings of the female body. Lindsey Merrison's *Our Burmese Days* (Germany/U.K., 1996) examines another parent-child relationship in the director's search for the meaning in his mother's hidden history as a mixed-race woman who "passed."

More affirmative female imagery is found in a less obvious place — the silent film. Legendary actress Ruan Lingyu committed suicide in 1935 at age 25, but her presence resonates powerfully in Bu Wancang's tragic *Love and Duty* (China, 1931). Ruan joins the ranks of world-class actresses like Giulietta Masina and Kinuyo Tanaka in a daring portrayal that takes her from a radiant, smiling schoolgirl to a wretched, crooked-toothed old hag. Watch for the chubby, evil queen butler who helps engineer her fall.

Films by and for women

Another seemingly inhospitable realm is the notoriously patriarchal Indian film. But Deepa Mehta, director of *Fire* (India, 1996), says Indian authorities took no notice of her controversial lesbian film because they

FILM

Jeanne Chin and John Cho in *Shopping for Fangs*.

were busy with Mira Nair's lurid *Kama Sutra*, also shot in India. In *Fire*, we meet two women, Radha (superstar Shabana Azmi), the traditional subservient wife; and Sita (Nandita Das), a younger woman with new ideas. Sita's boredom with the terms of marriage — "This devotion thing is overrated," she says flatly — dovetails with the increasing alienation Radha experiences as the result of her marriage. The film shows lesbianism in a way rarely seen in the West or the East — as an enticing alternative to the tedium of heterosexuality.

Festivals like this are crucial in helping the culture shift into a more inclusive phase.

erosexual relations.

A younger generation of women is featured in *Girls Like Us* (U.S., 1997); Directors Jane C. Wagner and Tina DiFeliciantonio interviewed four girls in South Philadelphia over a four-year period, from ages 14 to 18. In describing the limits and possibilities of their lives, they create an unforgettable picture of society at large. Most disturbing is the fate of one of the girls' friends, a Vietnamese-American named Chevteny, whose father throws her out on the street when she "disgraces" them by going out with a boy.

The voices of gays and lesbians in mainland China are finally heard in Wang Feng and Gary

Wu's *Comrades* (China, 1996). The filmmakers talked to cruisey teens, disco boys, writers, intellectuals, and academics, but the way in which the filmmakers present several of the interviews is instructive in itself — some of the faces are scrambled, one of the interviews shows only feet. *Comrades*' simple, almost home-movie style describes a culture reminiscent of '50s America; even the books on the subject resonate with repression, particularly the one described as the "first book on homosexuals published in mainland

area of high art. Peter Rosen's *First Person Singular: I.M. Pei* (U.S., 1997) lets the architect who renovated the Louvre tell his life story in his own words. Hiro Narita's *Isamu Noguchi: Stones and Paper* (U.S., 1997) situates the artist in a variety of settings — as a student of Brancusi in Paris, as part of the New York avant garde, alone in his studio in Japan. Noguchi described himself as one of "that increasing number of not-exactly-belonging people," and this documentary shows how he turned the freedom that phrase suggests into lasting art.

Less artful, and only intermittently successful, is aging *enfant terrible* Quentin Lee and Justin Lin's *Shopping for Fangs* (Canada/U.S., 1997). This uneasy mix of genres — werewolves, urban crime, comedy, and obsession — culminates in an amusing John Woo-style standoff between a Brigitte Lin lookalike in blond wig and sunglasses and a murderous, pumped-up thug.

On a more political note are works like Antonio A. Montanari, Jr.'s *U.S.A. vs. Tokyo Rose* (U.S., 1995), which shows how one of America's mythical monsters was railroaded; and Janet Gardner's *A World Beneath the War* (U.S., 1996), a chilling Vietnam War documentary that uses recently unearthed footage from North Vietnam showing the survival strategies of villagers in one of the world's poorest, most beleaguered countries.

Political consciousness also permeates the work of Jang Sun Woo, a Korean director who warrants wider exposure. The standout in the six-film retrospective in this festival is his most recent work, *A Petal* (Korea, 1996). Jang is unnerving in his refusal to soften the events he describes, which

Anne Chua in *Tina DiFeliciantonio & Jane C. Wagner's Girls Like Us*.

are based on a 1980 massacre of civilian protesters by the Korean government. He starts with graphic documentary footage from this episode, then switches to the grim tale of an unnamed 15-year-old girl (Jung Hyun) who somehow extricates herself from the piles of dead bodies, only to be raped repeatedly by a laborer. The director connects her fate with that of Korea in a series of harrowing scenes, and expands the dramatic dimension by including animated sequences. Jang Sun Woo's is one of many voices celebrated in this festival that isn't likely to be heard elsewhere. Like the others here, it's a voice that deserves to be heard. ▼

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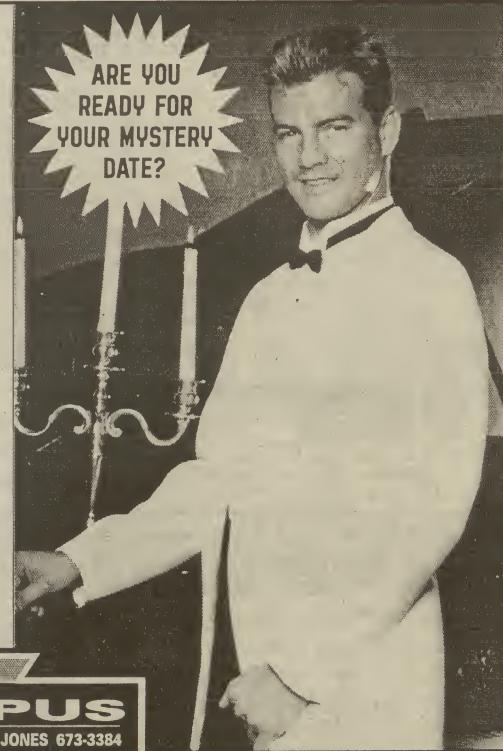
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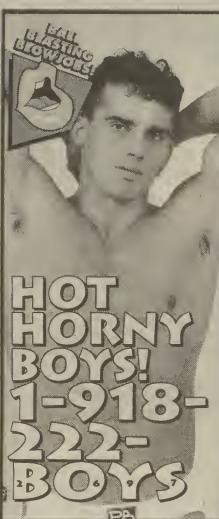
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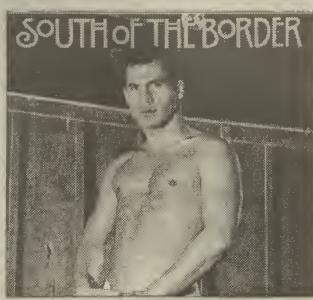
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Showqueens sully the classics

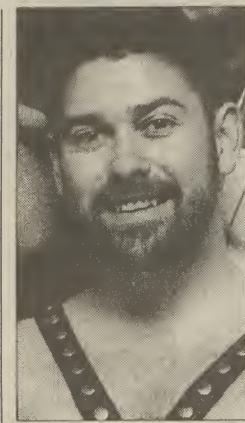
by Chad Jones

For everything about the musical revue *Dirty Little Showtunes* makes this perhaps the gayest show ever to play San Francisco. All the great queer stereotypes are hauled out for laughs by Seattle lyricist Tom Orr, everything from leather daddies and drag queens to rainbow flags and public lice. But the real clincher is this: every song is a newly retooled Broadway showtune. Things just can't get any gayer without imploding and exploding simultaneously.

Lyricist Orr, who also heads the all-male cast of six, knows his showtunes. Endless Broadway insider jokes make this a showqueen's delight, though the show's great triumph is that even the non-Broadway enthusiasts — all 12 of you — will find plenty to laugh about in *Dirty's* lampooning of gay life, all of which has been directed with great verve by Allen Sawyer and John F. Karr.

The first act is comprised of six men singing about all things gay. Two pajama-clad lovers (a la *The Pajama Game*) croon their version of Disney's "A Whole New World" called "A Perfect World," in which families love and support their gay and lesbian children's relationships and even grandma has nice things to say about them. Then, the recently separated Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris get creamed in a new version of an Irving Berlin number retitled, "Mr. Monogamy." Divas Judy and Barbra are, of course, included in the fun, but in an interesting way. What was written as a duet for Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme and John Hinckley, Jr. in Sondheim's *Assassins* becomes a hilarious plea for the love of Jason Gould and Joey Luft — the sons of Barbra and Judy respectively — called "I Am Unworthy of Your Son."

"Fugue for Tinhorns" from *Gays and Dolls* becomes a paean to porn for a trio and *A Chorus Line's* "At the Ballet" becomes a tender reminiscence called "At the Bathhouse." *Bye-Bye Birdie's* wonderful "Telephone Song" is a cleverly staged tangle of phone-sex participants and, in one of the show's best numbers, "Over the



Lyricist Tom Orr.

Rainbow" becomes an anti-rainbow anthem. "Somewhat over the rainbow, lambdas too," croons the capitalism-saturated queer. The meaning of the pink triangle has been lost, he insists. "How do key chains and beach towels link to the Holocaust?"

Orr and his cast-mates — Birdie-Bob Watt, Trauma Flint-

stone, David Bicha, Eric Brizee, and Randy Wendelin — really get going early in the second act, when the drag queens (Watt, Flintstone, and Bicha) battle over turf with the leather daddies (Orr, Brizee, and Wendelin). The duel leads to — you guessed it — "The Rumble" from *West Side Story*, then speeds into the peace-making process with an altered number from *Oklahoma!* called "The Leatherman and the Drag Queen Should Be Friends."

With the deft musical direction and piano accompaniment of Scrumbly Koldewyn, the handsome and nicely appointed set by Dana Peter Porras, and the humorous if not terribly challenging choreography by Ney Fonseca, the evening is first-class all the way. Some showtune aficionados may grumble about their sacred art being desecrated by the rabble-rousing homos, but it's all in good fun and proves the veracity of the old adage that there's no queen like a showqueen. ▼

Dirty Little Showtunes continues at the Cable Car Theatre through March 22. Call 956-8497 for information.

PERFORMANCE

Black & white together

by Deborah Peifer

For about 15 minutes early in 1967, it seemed possible, at least to an astonishingly naive gang of civil rights and anti-war activists, that racism was on the verge of being overcome. Of course, this was two years before Stonewall, so equal rights for gays and lesbians wasn't in that idealistic picture. Women were excluded as well, and told that our only position in the revolution was prone (presumably the boys meant supine, but prone is what they said), so I'm not suggesting that Nirvana was in the offing. But it seemed that a real effort was being made to reach across generations of color boundaries. A few months later, Dr. King was murdered, America's cities exploded in rage, and the chance for a peaceful meeting was lost.

Thirty years later, a generation later, the opinions of certain Proposition 209 supporters to the contrary notwithstanding, racism continues to destroy the haters and the rest of us. It would seem, given our own history of being discriminated against based on sexual orientation or gender, that lesbians at least would be able to get past racism. Would that it were so. In an effort to address the very real issues around racism in the lesbian communities, Luna Sea Women's Performance Project is presenting *Skin: The Black and White of It*, an original production of dance, music and theatre pieces written and performed by a company of African-American and white women. The short songs, dances, and scenes performed in *Skin* reflect the experiences around racism of the writers and performers. In short, it is real life made theatrical.

Rhodesia Jones (pictured), co-director of *Skin*, is a 48-year-old actor, dancer, singer, writer, and teacher. Her work with incarcerated women in *The Medea Project* several years ago brought the stories of these women to the attention of audiences world-wide. Jones sees her ability "to hone work based on disparate women's real lives" as a real plus on this particular project. "My expertise," she says, "lies in politicizing the work."

The women involved in this project are considerably younger than Jones and she is constantly asking them, "Do you know that people fought and died for you so that you could be on stage tonight talking about your love for women?" Jones wants to give "space to young people to experiment, to find ways to change this world. We have to be mindful of younger people," she says. "They're from the future." ▼



Rhodesia Jones

Skin: The Black and the White of It is at Luna Sea Women's Performance Project, 2940 16th St. (#216C), Friday-Sunday, March 7 through March 23. Call 863-2989 for information.

THEATRE

Tango machismo

Thick Description's 'Blade to the Heat'

by Chad Jones

There's an Academy Award-nominated documentary about Muhammad Ali and the world of boxing in theaters right now which just happens to coincide with the appearance of an award-winning play about a gay boxer in the 1950s. The play, by Oliver Mayer, is called *Blade to the Heat*, a suitably pulpy title for its meaty subject matter, but perhaps a more timely title might be *When We Were Queens*.

This production of *Blade* by Thick Description — a theater company of reliable edginess (*The America Play, Santos & Santos*) — is masterful in its technique, even if it comes up a little short in its final one-two punch. Playwright Mayer ultimately lets down his actors and production team as the play's second act slowly sinks into maudlin, pretentiously arty verbiage. As directed by Tony Kelly, though, *Blade to the Heat* has a crafty energy that keeps interest level high even if the play goes down for the count.

In one corner of this drama is Pedro Quinn (Joseph Pacheco Ponce), a young up-and-comer trying to make it in the competitive world of Los Angeles boxing in 1959. In addition to being Mexican-American, Pedro is also a homosexual. In the other corner is Mantequilla Decima (L. Peter Callender), a fiercely proud Cuban boxer whose cockiness and fiery pride have made him champion. When Quinn dethrones Decima, trouble follows in the

form of self-interested boxer and troublemaker Wilfred Vinal (Noel Benoza), who raises the flag of "faggot" while in the ring with Decima. Vinal's accusations — created only to mess with the minds of his opponents and propel his own career — don't stick to Decima, but with the impressionable Quinn it's another story.

Quinn's emergence as a champion coincides with his emergence as a sexual being. The boxer's attraction to Garnet (Colman Domingo), a gay man who impersonates Jackie Wilson for a living, provides *Blade to the Heat* with its most intriguing dramatic elements. Garnet's occasional Jackie Wilson performances and his gradual romance with the enigmatic Quinn keep this play from becoming just another fag-bashing athletic tale.

Before the play becomes overloaded with symbolism about dead dogs and loneliness, Mayer's script is interesting and insightful. Quinn tries to describe the sensation of fighting in the ring to Garnet, who is new to the world of boxing, if not the world of violence: "It's weird getting hit. You feel so alive. That's the thing. It doesn't last." There are also glimpses into the tortured psyche of the gay boxer when the slimy Vinal points out that a closet case loves the fight because of the physical proximity to another sweaty man all the while receiving a battering punishment for being attracted to that sweaty man.

Blade's cast is uniformly strong, offering full-blooded interpretations of characters that



L. Peter Callender and Joseph Pacheco Ponce in Oliver Mayer's "Blade to the Heat."

Seth Diclemente

could too easily become stereotypes. Pacheco Ponce's fragile but brutal Quinn is at once isolated in his emotional shell and stinging when he's pushed to lash out at the world. Domingo's sassy Garnet delivers some spot-on Jackie Wilson moves and emerges as the play's only emotionally independent soul. Everyone else is too wrapped up in the brutality of the sport to see the forest through the trees.

The non-human star of the production is Richard Olmsted's

brilliant set, which transforms the boxy theater into a brightly lit boxing ring. Kelly uses the ring beautifully to orchestrate conversations, often keeping one person in the ring while the other paces around it, thus forging a dynamic tension that keeps characters sizing one another up like sparring partners.

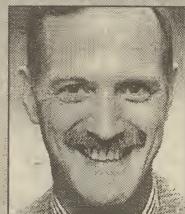
Kelly has directed his boxers to accentuate the eroticism of boxing, but this tango machismo isn't enough to make the drama add up to anything meaningful. By

play's end, when one of the boxers lies dead in the ring, the work has wandered far afield of what initially made it interesting.

Blade to the Heat may not be a knockout, but with a great cast, an intriguing take on a familiar sport, and some fascinating moments, it does score a solid hit. ▼

Blade to the Heat continues at New Langton Arts through March 16. Call 550-7250 for information.

OBITUARY

Louis A. Botto
1951-1997

Louis A. Botto, founder and artistic director of the male vocal ensemble Chanticleer, died last week of AIDS-related causes at his home in San Francisco. He was 45.

A tenor who sang with the ensemble from its earliest days in 1978 until 1989, Botto was widely recognized as a leader in the field of choral music. With Chanticleer, he created the only full-time classical ensemble in the U.S. today and helped elevate *a cappella* ensemble singing to a high level of professional and artistic achievement. In June 1996, he received the prestigious Michael Korn Founder's Award from Chorus America in recognition of his contributions to choral music.

Mr. Botto formed Chanticleer in 1978 when he realized that the group of friends he brought together to sing Renaissance music was of professional caliber. He convinced the group to perform their first public concert at Mission Dolores that summer. Within a few years, Chanticleer was touring the country, earning a loyal following and capturing the attention of both funders and presenters. Today, Chanticleer performs over 100 concerts annually across the U.S. and abroad and records exclusively for Teldec Classics International.

A native of Texas, Mr. Botto went to San Antonio College and graduated from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. While in Texas he directed and acted in the First Repertory Company of San Antonio, in addition to opening and running a health food store and restaurant. He did post-graduate work in musicology at the University of Texas in Austin before moving to the Bay Area in 1975 to earn his Masters of Music degree from Dominican College in San Rafael.

Mr. Botto will be remembered by the many singers, audience members, music lovers, and friends whose lives he has enriched. He is survived by his loving mother, Edythe K. Botto, of San Antonio; his partner, Eric Reiner; Sammy, their dog; his dear friends Dr. Janna Blanchard, Lupe Cantu, Marie Ueda, Dr. Bert Dieringer, Karen Toothman; and many others.

Mr. Botto requested that donations be made in his memory to San Francisco Chanticleer Endowment Foundation, 650 Fifth Street, Suite 311, San Francisco, CA 94107. ▼

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J. Karla Lemon vies for conductorship

by Timothy Pfaff

There is a palpable air of contest in this season's concerts of The Women's Philharmonic. The conductors of its three subscription concerts are candidates for the position of Artistic Director/Conductor, to be filled at season's end. At Herbst Theatre Saturday, it was contestant J. Karla Lemon's turn at the helm. (Her competitors are Odaline de la Martinez and Apo Hsu.) Lemon is Music Director of the Stanford Symphony and a frequent visitor to other Bay Area podiums. Her program Saturday demonstrated her range as an interpretive musician.

Impressive as the program was, it intermittently caused something like auditory whiplash. Pieces of startlingly different character followed one another in a sequence clearly calculated to win over, then challenge, then soothe and reassure its audience. Lemon gave her listeners so much to think about, it was hard to know what to think.

What did become clear over the course of this solidly executed concert, however, was Lemon's ability to illuminate musical structures and clarify textures. What sometimes seemed missing was an appreciation of the music's more sensual aspects. Competitions have a way of doing that to music.



Min Xiao-Fen

Lemon imbued the American premiere of Hilary Tann's 1994 "With the heather and small birds" with a straight-ahead vigor that mined the piece for its color and energy but played down the naivete of its orchestration. (Tann excels at children's piano music.)

After a long musical digression that took listeners across three centuries and as many cultures, the concert closed with the American premiere of French composer Melanie Bonis' 1898 "Suite en forme de valses." The three-movement charmer by this prolific if



J. Karla Lemon

Jim Hair

little-known student of César Franck proposes three waltzes of a highly individual character evoked with an orchestral palette as individual and savory as Tann's is monochromatic. The orchestra played it affectionately.

Still, it was hard to get one's ears around "Ballabile," its first and quite possibly most distinctive movement. Bonis' safe, solid, if adventurous harmonies sounded odd, even sour in the wake of the concert's most aggressively

modernist offering, "Verblendungen," Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's noisy, early-'80s one-two punch for orchestra and computer-generated tape.

"Verblendungen" so successfully blends live orchestral sound with taped content that an auditory integrity does emerge from the barrage of sounds, even on a first hearing. Lemon led her players in a fearless, wonderfully committed performance that re-affirmed the

page 52 ▶

PERFORMANCE

Dykitude



Steve Savage

Choreographers Anne Bluethenthal and Mercy Sidbury have assembled a show at Theater Rhinoceros entitled *Dykes Do Attitude*. Directed by Rhino Artistic Director Adele Prandini, *Dykes* is a celebration of dance theater and humor that brings together the work of two important San Francisco choreographers and three Bay Area Dancers, Jenna Cameron, Debby Kajiyama, and Sue Roginski, pictured above. *Dykes Do Attitude* is Rhino's first dance theater production under the direction of Adele Prandini. The show runs Wed.-Sun., March 8 through April 5 on Rhino's mainstage at 2926 16th St. For tickets (\$12-\$18), call 861-5079. ▶

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MUSIC



Barbara Bonney

Kudos

SF Symphony wins fourth Grammy

by Philip Campbell

In the weeks following the San Francisco Symphony musicians' strike, it has been gratifying to note that there is no obvious lingering resentment between players and management. The concerts have been exceptionally satisfying, and everyone appears glad to be back to work.

Disappointment over the cancellation of a planned recording of Stravinsky's "Persephone," performed several weeks ago, was mitigated last week when it was announced that the Symphony won a Grammy Award in the Best Orchestral Performance category for "Scenes from Prokofiev's Romeo & Juliet," in a new arrangement by Michael Tilson Thomas. The record, distributed on the RCA Red Seal label, marks the fourth Grammy for the SF Symphony and the first under Tilson Thomas.

The big news two weeks ago was the return of guest conductor Roger Norrington to the podium for an all-Mozart program. It has been two years since Norrington's last visit, and while I was hardly eager to see him again, I must confess to a certain admiration for his meticulous performance practice and selfless stage presence.

As founder of the London Classical Players (in 1978), Norrington became one of the earliest and most influential of the "historical performance" advocates. We are in his debt for clearing away years of accumulated inaccuracies. Still, I remain one of those heretics who prefers a more burnished approach to Mozart, so I'm happy to report that the Symphony No. 36 and Serenade No. 9 were performed on modern instruments.

Last week, in what turned out to be the most exciting performance since the players returned to work, John Adams conducted a stunning reappraisal of his choral blockbuster *Harmonium*, which was commissioned by the SFS in 1980, premiered here under Edo de Waart in 1981, and ignored in the intervening 13 years. Although previously recorded by de Waart (on ECM) and by Robert Shaw (on Teldec), Adams will lead what is presumably the definitive performance for Nonesuch dur-

ing recording sessions at Davies in early March.

Adams has enjoyed an enviable success with the San Francisco Symphony. In 1979, he was appointed New Music Advisor to then-SFS Music Director Edo de Waart. Together the two formed the New and Unusual Music Series, which was unquestionably one of the most important contemporary music forums ever conceived on the West Coast. Then, in 1980, Adams was named San Francisco Symphony Composer-in-Residence, a position he kept for five years and in which he flourished. It was during this time that Adams' testing of the limits of minimalism became so famous, even *Esquire* got on the Adams bandwagon by adding his name to the list of most influential Americans under the age of forty. Memory of that distinction may have floated back into the composer's consciousness at last Thursday's matinee performance, when, in honor of his 50th birthday, the musicians, Symphony President Nancy Bechtel, and Symphony Chorus Director Vance George sang an onstage birthday tribute to the composer.

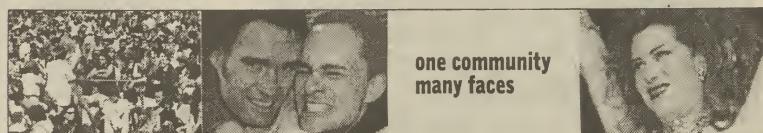
As a major player in the heady world of contemporary music, Adams is one composer who is capable of writing cross-over music that appeals to both sophisticates and pop listeners. He is also one heck of an orchestrator. Last week, in addition to his *Harmonium*, Adams led the first U.S. performances of his orchestration of Debussy's *Le Livre de Baudelaire*. Soprano Barbara Bonney performed the vocal part, while actress Claire Bloom spoke the text. The results were strangely flat. Bloom was ill-advised to read in the original French, as her accent proved surprisingly poor. Bonney's bright, often rapid soprano, however, proved quite charming.

Adams gave a thrilling account of his *Harmonium*, in which the astute listener can detect a clear admiration for the transparent textures of Ravel and Debussy. The Symphony Chorus under Vance George dispatched its part with style to spare. The new recording should be a smashing success, a happy celebration of the musicians' return to Davies Hall after so many weeks apart. ▶

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



"On every ship, the sailors kept a dog or little bear. It was their diversion, and for five minutes, they could be happy."

Sailor's Leisure, Murmansk, 1942

B/W Russian

Russia in Black and White: The Photojournalism of Yevgeny Khaldei is a powerful exhibit of a life's work chronicling the history of this bloody century. Born in a Jewish shtetl the year of the Bolshevik Revolution, his mother killed in a pogrom when he was one, Khaldei went on to become the foremost Russian combat photographer of World War II. The exhibit at the Jewish Museum/SF spans five decades from his Socialist Realist photos of the '30s on, but Khaldei's war pictures are its core. His *Raising the Red Flag Over the Reichstag, Berlin, May 2, 1945* is as iconic for its era as Joe Rosenthal's image of Marines raising the US flag at Iwo Jima.

In March he will turn 80, but in person Yevgeny Khaldei is full of youthful spunk and lively humor. At the press conference with curator Joan Perlman prior to his opening, he held up favorite prints and told stories, through an interpreter, about photographing Goering at the Nuremberg Trials, and coercing Stalin, Truman and Churchill into group poses at the Potsdam Conference. He spoke movingly about photographing Jewish survivors in the Budapest Ghetto still wearing yellow Stars of David after the city was liberated by the Allies. "Because I wore a leather coat, they feared me, thinking I was SS," he said. "When I said, 'Shalom' and told them I was Jewish, they cried" in relief.

Though he was a wartime hero, Khaldei was the target of anti-Semitic purges by the postwar Soviets, thrown out of jobs at the news agency Tass and the newspaper *Pravda*. Recently he has received belated international attention, a medal from the French Ministry of Culture, and exhibitions like this one. Walking through it is a vivid communion with 20th-century history. ▼

Russia in Black and White: The Photojournalism of Yevgeny Khaldei is at the Jewish Museum San Francisco, 121 Steuart St., through July 17. Call 543-2090 for information.

Fri

Blade to the Heart

Oliver Mayer's play deals with latent homosexuality in the boxing world, 1959. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru March 16. \$12-16. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 550-7250.

Curves

Color photographs by Will Shank, the play of light and shadow. Thru 4/30, reception today, 4-6pm. Caffe Centro, 102 South Park. 882-1500.

The Edge Festival

Dance performance by Robert Moses' Kin with SoVoSo. 3/6-9 at 8pm. \$10. Dancers' Group Studio Theater, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

Girlfriends

Magazine editors talk about acquisition of *On Our Backs*, future of lesbian porn, free. 7:30pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

Goldberg Street

Scenes from David Mamet's early work, incl. *All Men Are Whores: an Inquiry*. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 3/22. \$10. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 673-7156.

Into the Drift and Sway

Dance performance by Steamroller inspired by David Wojnarowicz's *Memories That Smell Like Gasoline*. Thru Sat. at 8pm. \$6-10. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Leaving Myopia

New paintings & sculptures by Leigh Barbier & Elizabeth Medrano, reception tonight, 6pm. Wed.-Sat. thru 4/19. Space 743, 743 Harrison. 777-7080.

Machinal

ACT's production of Sophie Treadwell's 1920s drama. Tues.-Sun. thru 3/9, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$9.50-47.50. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

MACT Rap

Men of All Colors Together discuss racism in the 90s, free. 7pm. 2nd floor, Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison. 675-0201.

Mark Morris Dance Group

Joined by acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Tonight at 8pm, Sat. at 2pm. \$32-68. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

Old, Jewish and Queer

Naomi Newman in musical theater piece that pushes boundaries of time and gender. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/23. \$16. A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

Park Your Car in Harvard Yard

Israel Horovitz's play stars Dean Goodman and Rebecca Dines. Thurs.-Sun. thru 3/9, call for times. \$20. Tonight at 8pm. Jewel Theatre, 655 Geary. (510) 562-4647.

Poor Super Man

Kaliyuga Arts presents Brad Fraser's sexy "play with captions." \$12-15. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 3/16. SOMAR Theatre, 934 Brannan. 431-8423.

Same Sex Swing

Beginners, 7:30pm; ad-

vanced, 8:30pm. Dance "jam," 9pm. \$8, 10 w/lesson. Metronome Block Party, 300 DeHaro. 252-9000.

Skin:

"The Black and White of It," theatre, dance and music solo and ensemble pieces exploring racism in the lesbian community. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 3pm thru 3/23. \$10-15. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. #216C. 863-2989.

Trafficking in Broken Hearts

Erotic drama about a hustler, a runaway, and a lawyer. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/15. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Uncle Bob

Austin Pendleton's play: uncle and nephew in verbal and psychological warfare. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm thru 3/29. \$8-12. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Lavender Seniors

Of the East Bay, group for gays & lesbians over 55, holds potluck, noon, San Leandro Comm. Church, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro. (510) 247-2506.

Leather and Lace

Drag show hosted by Tiger Lily. Doors 8:30pm, show 9pm. No cover, 2 drink min/m. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 881-5079.

Men's Flag Football

Gay flag football, all levels welcome. 10am. Louis Sutter Park, Wayland and Amherst. 441-7760.

The Mikado

Lamplighters Music Theater presents Gilbert and Sullivan's light opera. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/23. \$15-24. Lindland Theatre, Riordan High School, 175 Phelan. 392-4400.

Club Papi

Latino dance club, outdoor dance pavilion, go-go fla-

vor, \$7, benefits Pro-Latino. 9pm on. 170 W. St. John, San Jose. (408) 793-0113.

Drag Bingo

Genderbending bingo madness, benefits LGBTQ youth. Joan Jet Blakk, Sisters of Perp. Indulg., Mitcho, more. \$10-15. 6pm. Eureka Valley Rec. Ctr., 100 Collingwood. 552-7200.

Dykes Do Attitude

Dance theater by Anne Bluthenthal, Jenna Cameron, Kali Kajiyama, Sue Roginski, Mercy Sidbury. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 4/5. \$12-20. Theatrino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Pat Suzuki Returns

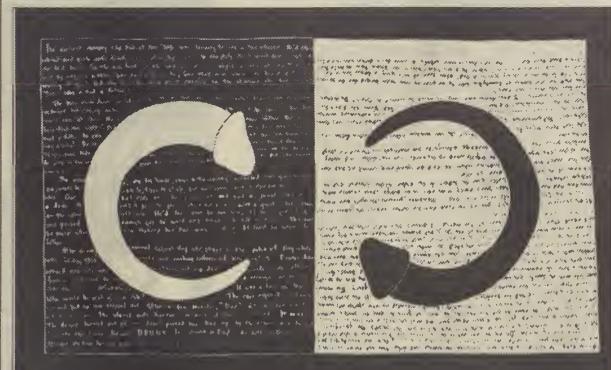
Broadway singer and actress in concert, benefits Nihonmachi Legal Outreach. \$30-100. 7:30pm. Alcazar Theatre, 1519 Mission. 392-4400.

Radio Mambo:

"Culture Clash Invades Miami," Latin comedy troupe. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3&7pm thru 3/16. \$14-34. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm extended thru 3/30. Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 392-4400.

Raised Butch

Margot Lynn in solo performance which answers the question, "What are you, a



New painting and sculpture by Leigh Barbier and Elizabeth Medrano, *Leaving Myopia*, opens Friday at Space 743. See listing.

18 Mighty Mountain Warriors

Asian-American skit comedy group in late-night shows. \$10, 10:30pm. 3/8, 15. Brava Theatre, 2789 24th St. 647-BTCC.

Internat'l Women's Day

Calif. Coalition for Women's Prisoners presents performances by Riot Act Theatre, Chryssostos, Rebecca Riots, more. \$10-25. 7pm. Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. 255-7036.

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Strippers Take It Off

"And we all benefit." Erotic dance show features Nikko, Andreas, more. Latino AIDS benefit at Club Futura dance club. \$10, 10pm-3am. 174 King. 665-6715.

Tulipmania

Free outdoor display of more than 35,000 tulips; tours daily at 10am. Thru 3/9. Pier 39, Beach St. at Embarcadero. 705-5500.

20/20 Blake

George Coates Performance Works presents musical based on William Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. \$14-34. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm extended thru 3/30. Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 392-4400.

Virgins and Other Myths

One-man play stars Andrew



Margot Lynn in *Raised Butch* at Theatre Rhino Studio. See Saturday.

gut

Cheer San Francisco

Professional gay cheerleading squad holds open auditions. 9am-1pm. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. (510) 525-7016.

GAWK

Gay Artists and Writers Collective seeks video editors, guitar players, music junkies and comedians. Meets Sun. at 3pm. Info: 731-2424.

GLOE

Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders sponsors 5th Annual Reader's Benefit, lesbians of all ages invited. \$5-25. 3pm. Activity room, 145 Guerrero. 647-7000.

Jeff Krell

Further adventures of gay comic star Jayson, free. 3:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Sadhana Brothers

Gay men's Hindu/Yogic fellowship, monthly mtg. chanting, meditation, discussion. 6pm. Call for location. 647-4388.

Mon 10

The Booby Trap

Female cabaret includes MC Fairy Butch, Jewelle Gomez,

Vincent Fratello

Author Dorothy Allison (pictured) and singer Ronnie Gilbert appear together in *An Evening to Remember*, Thursday night in Berkeley. See listing.



Jill Posner

Michelle Tea, more; benefits Breast Cancer Action. \$10. 7pm. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market.

Genderfuck Project
& "Fetish Tarot" by Kevin DuArte. Thru 5/10. Stormy Leather, 1158 Howard. 626-1672.

John Gutmann:
"Parallels in Focus," exhibit of photographs, paintings and drawings by the artist, incl. the original "Talking Pictures." Mon.-Sat. thru 3/20. Art Dept. Gallery, SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6535.

Mildred Brown
Clinical psychologist discusses *True Selves: Understanding Transsexualism*, free. 7pm. Barnes & Noble, 2550 Taylor. 292-6762.

Out on the Island
Community action group for gays and lesbians holds general membership mtg. Coffee/7pm; mtg. 7:30pm. 2311 Buena Vista, Alameda. (510) 337-1300.

Preserving a Jewel:
"Costumes from the San Francisco Ballet" exhibit, free. Mon.-Fri. thru 3/28. Transamerica Pyramid lobby, 600 Montgomery. 983-4088.

Robert Arneson
Exhibit of self-portraits: ceramics, bronzes, works on paper. Thru 5/13. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Stitch and Bitch
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every other Monday. 7pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Columbus, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.

Tues

The Living Brush
Exhibition of "Four Contemporary Chinese Master Calligraphers." Tues.-Sat. thru 8/14. Pacific Heritage Museum, 608 Commercial. 399-1124.

Paris Before the Boulevards

"1860s-70s" photographs by Charles Marville. Thru 3/22. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

The Peale Family:

"Creation of an American Legacy, 1770-1870" exhibition. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/6. \$6. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

QTV

Gay and lesbian programming. Tues. at 7pm. Cable Channel 47. 956-1284.

Raindance:

"New Paintings for the Spring" by Lynn Beldner, Kico Govantes, Nelson Morales, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/15. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

Sappho: No Ordinary Housewife

Exhibit of life and times of

Greek poet Sappho. Thru 4/30. Hormel Center, SF Main Library, Civic Center. 661-4107.

Saved

Portraits of objects by photographer J. John Priola; with Nan Goldin's "Recent Photographs," thru 4/26. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 961-2661.

The Sophie Tucker Songbook

Sharon McNight's one-woman show on the life and music of legendary star. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm, Sat.-Sun. at 3pm thru 4/6. Call for ticket price. Plush Room, Hotel York. 885-2800.

Wed

Game Night

Card and board games. Wed. at 7:30pm. Muddy's Coffeehouse, 1304 Valencia. 679-3680.

Gary Wu

Beijing gay activist reads from *We Do Exist*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Landmarks of the American Musical

Exhibition of memorabilia, music and video clips. Wed.-Sat. thru 3/22. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Mary Ellen Pleasant:

"Mother of Civil Rights in California" exhibition, Wed.-Sat. thru 4/5. SF Art Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Same Sex Salsa

Dance classes with Ava Apple. Beginners, 7pm; intermediate, 8pm. \$8/class, \$29/4 classes. Jon Sims Ctr., 1519 Mission. 681-8140.

Size of Earth:

"Illuminated Photoworks by Doug and Mike Starn" exhibit, also "The Inaugural Ball: An Open Space Installation by Margaret Crane and Jon Winet," thru 3/16. \$5. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Thur

Approach

Installation by Glen Seator: reproduction of street in front of bldg. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/22. Capp St. Project, 525 2nd St. 495-7101.

Bingo

Coming Home Hospice Bingo benefits AIDS groups.

6:30pm. 100 Diamond. 552-2127.

Butt-Rageous

SF Leather Daddy 14 Loren Berthelsen presents "Star-Butt" contest. \$7 beer/soda bust, 8-11pm, benefits AIDS Emergency Fund. Daddy's, 440 Castro.

Diosa!: Oh My Goddess

Sherry Glaser performs one-woman comedy work-in-progress. Thru 3/27, call for times. \$20. 8pm. Hoyt Theater, 18th/19th Street, 200 N. San Pedro, San Rafael. 479-2000.

Dorothy Allison, Ronnie Gilbert

Author of *Bastard Out of Carolina* reads; singer performs as Mother Jones, *American Agitator*. Benefits The Progressive Way. \$20-50. 7pm. St. John's Presbyterian, 2727 College, Berkeley. (510) 559-9184.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy featuring the NY cast. Tues.-Sun., extended thru 3/30. Tonight at 8pm, call for times. \$25-38. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Praise and Punishment Show

Fratelli Bologna in evening of competitive improv. Thurs. at 8pm thru 5/29. \$10. Bayfront Theatre, Bldg. B, Fort Mason. 285-4328.

Tales of Urban Horror

An Evening of Meant-Spirited Mini-Plays by Rocky Heck, Lisa Morton. Thurs.-Sat. thru 3/29 at 8pm. \$10. Bindlestiff Studio, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

Veronica Klaus

Vocalist, with Heart and Soul quartet, performs R&B cabaret. Thurs. thru March. \$5. 10pm. Cat's Grill and Alley Club, 1190 Folsom. 431-3332.

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Erotic dancer Nikko in Strippers Take It Off at Futura. See Saturday.



Steve Sava

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Chaos theories

by Linnea Due

A Crisis of Meaning: How Gay Men Are Making Sense of AIDS
by Stephen Schwartzberg; Oxford University Press, \$25

A *Crisis of Meaning* isn't just about making sense of AIDS but making sense of life. It describes walking the tightrope between hope and illusion, grief and despair, and calls for moderation in all things, even the search for truth, admitting that we live within a series of paradoxes that are sometimes best not looked at too closely.

In cracking open a window, author and psychotherapist Stephen Schwartzberg has illuminated the whole house: his investigations of how 19 gay men have adapted to the AIDS epidemic and to their own positive HIV status engages what many of us — gay or not, positive or not — confront as we attempt to invest our lives with meaning.

How does one make sense of life when almost every expectation is shattered, when much of what mattered is no longer relevant, when simply moving from day to day can be unbearably painful? What we believe ought to happen can be shattered in an instant with a positive test result or over a period of years with the accumulated grief and numbness of too many deaths. As Schwartzberg writes, "...we face a profound crisis of meaning: how we previously made sense of the world is no longer valid or useful. And this is the central challenge of trauma — to reestablish life's meaning in a dramatically changed world."

To describe how his 19 subjects have adapted to life in the era of AIDS, Schwartzberg divides them into four styles of adaptation: transformation, in which his subjects make positive steps toward growth, often in surprising new directions; rupture, in which life has become meaningless and agonizing; camouflage, where people cling to irrational belief systems that separate the individual from the community, thus warding off the enormity of AIDS; and impassivity, in which people claim to be unaffected and indifferent. It may seem odd to put the most positive adaptation first, but Schwartzberg wants to make clear that these adaptations are not stages of growth; people won't steadily progress from one step to another.

There is, however, washover between the groups, and certainly movement between them. Those who were "ruptured" may "transform," and perhaps the "camouflage" people can't keep up the self-deception and will move on to either "rupture" or "transformation." Schwartzberg seems most mystified by the impassive group, concluding that these men are simply detached, and AIDS won't change them.

Schwartzberg debunks the "stage" theory of how people deal with loss, examines how punishment and contamination scenarios can establish (negative) meaning, and maintains that the most psychologically healthy response might be rewriting the narrative. He says there is value in not always facing life's challenges head-on: "We respond to an impending threat with a fierce attack," Schwartzberg writes. "Sometimes this frontal attack works ... but often it only worsens the situation. The cloak of our defenses, or our

fear, anger or maladaptive behavior, gets wrapped tighter. The harder we try to fight something, the more we may end up in its grip."

This "self-help" book offers no easy answers; even as Schwartzberg recommends an occasional retreat from reality, he hopes the retrenchment will offer a new road toward growth. In this, he's refreshing: while he affirms everyone's right to his own defenses, he isn't afraid to say that some people get more out of life than others. Schwartzberg walks his own tightrope — he believes that in large part we aren't responsible for our own destiny, but we are responsible for how we interpret and make use of what has happened to us.

Unfortunately, because Schwartzberg is focusing so explicitly on adaptations and beliefs, the men who embody those beliefs don't really come alive. He's also undercut by his own honesty: as he illustrates the nuances of the adaptations and the slippage from one group to another, he uses the same quotes again and again, each time viewed from a different angle. This paints a more complex portrait, but the echo intrudes on the emotional impact; we can't get



Stephen Schwartzberg

away from the realization that what we are allowed to see has been filtered through Schwartzberg's eyes. A strong writer, he could have opened and closed each section with interpretation and then let the stories stand alone.

Schwartzberg raises vital questions, offers hard advice, and will likely enrage as many readers as he enlightens. We are perhaps at our most human when we try to wrest meaning from disillusionment, and Schwartzberg is masterful at exploring how the search for individual meaning intertwines with community affiliation, concern, and activism. Books like these, which struggle to tell the truth, prod us forward whether we want to go or not. ▼

Philharmonic

◀ page 48

importance of this orchestra on the Bay Area's increasingly impoverished new-music scene. The audience took it like brave patients undergoing a particularly aggressive teeth cleaning.

The concert's unambiguous crowd-pleaser was a set of string-ensemble excerpts from the cantatas of Camilla de Rossi — superb early 18th-century music, some of which The Women's Philharmonic has already performed and recorded, some of which was being performed for the first time in 300 years at Herbst Theatre Saturday night. The pieces were delightful, even if Lemon's sole concession to historical performance practice meant that violinists and violists stood while playing, as if imitating a European Baroque band. I kept waiting for

the KDFC announcer to intone, "Suite from Camilla de Rossi's 'San Alessio,' 1710."

The concert peaked with a ravishing account of Bun-Ching Lam's 1994 "Sudden Thunder," a fascinating composition for orchestra and solo pipa, the Chinese lute. The orchestra's contribution was "top-notch," but Min Xiao-Fen's deft, exalted performance of the highly expressive pipa solos set a standard of musicianship so high that everything else Saturday paled by comparison. "Sudden Thunder" belongs on a Women's Philharmonic CD. It's the kind of piece — and this was the kind of performance — you want to live with. ▼

The third and final performance of the Women's Philharmonic takes place March 29 at Herbst Theatre (8 p.m.). For tickets and information, call 392-4400.

REVIEW

Auspicious debut

by Jim Coughenour

Hallucinating Foucault by Patricia Duncker; Eco Press, \$21

Sometimes you stumble upon a book by an author you've never heard of and are immediately seduced. Such was the case with Patricia Duncker's *Hallucinating Foucault*, which I discovered last week on the new books table at A Different Light Bookstore. Duncker was born in the West Indies, educated in England, and teaches feminist theory in Wales. This is her first novel.

Hallucinating Foucault lives up to its strange title and snazzy cover, and (fortunately) has almost nothing to do with the late French philosopher Foucault. The story centers on an earnest young Englishman who is writing his dissertation on a certain "Paul Michel," an iconoclastic homosexual French novelist who goes completely mad after winning the Prix Goncourt. The plot is a map of matching obsessions — a Foucauldian triangulation of Eros, madness and literature. It's also quite charming, if a bit neat in its conclusion. In short, this is a small, chiseled gem of a first novel. Highly recommended. ▼



This is the place

by Glen Helfand

On This Site: Landscape in Memoriam by Joel Sternfeld; Chronicle Books, \$27.50 paper; \$45 hardcover

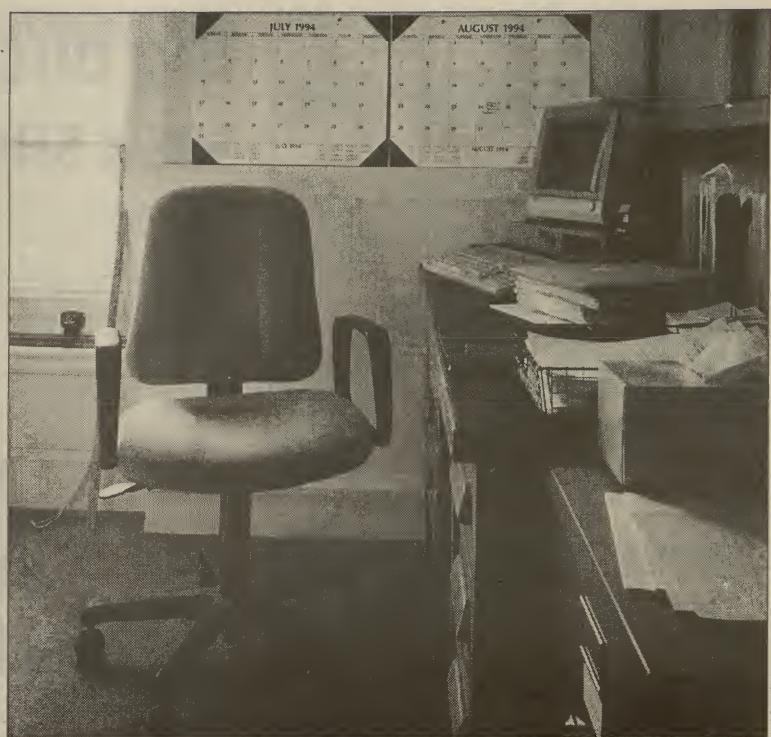
The infamous Stonewall Inn is a sacred site, a building where push came to shove and history was made. But in the 1994 photograph of the building in *On This Site*, Joel Sternfeld's curiously affecting new book, the structure seems both ordinary and haunted. The nighttime view shows the bar's window decorated for Valentine's Day, the red neon sign lending the place a warm glow. Twenty-five years after its triumphant moment, it's just a place that knowledge infuses with history — but one that could easily be overlooked.

Sternfeld, widely known for his culturally insightful landscape images, photographed dozens of such charged-yet-invisible locations. In a crisp luminous style, he revisits the Los Angeles intersection where the riots began after the 1992 Rodney King verdict; the rubble of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas; the Florida abortion clinic where Dr.

David Gunn was shot and killed by a right-to-lifer; Dan White's former office; and other locations touched by high-profile violence.

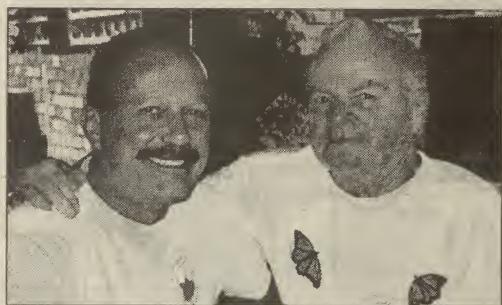
Each full-page color image is captioned with matter-of-fact information regarding the crime or injustice that occurred there. "At hearings held in this room in August 1983, the American Association of Blood Banks and the Food and Drug Administration rejected evidence that AIDS might be transmitted by blood transfusions," reads the text facing a picture of an eerily calm courtroom. Though the image itself is benign, it generates waves of emotion in the right viewer.

On the surface, the book seems like a macabre road trip across America. But Sternfeld's rich color images are too beautiful, his intentions too thoughtful, to appeal to those who might take a kitschy Grave Line Tour of Hollywood death sites. This unlikely coffee-table classic instead is filled with elegant reminders of horrific acts. "Each tragedy demands its own remembrance. Each of them is ours," Sternfeld writes in his afterward. It's a well-illustrated idea, and one that many of us know intimately. Sternfeld makes it visually resonant. ▶



Joel Sternfeld

Supervisor Dan White's former office, Room 235, City Hall, San Francisco, 1994.



Homunculus

Lips, right, in her favorite butterfly sweater, tries to put the make on Howard in the rooftop bar of Howie's Paco Paco bar in Puerto Vallarta.

Grass for the Giraffe

by Sweet Lips

On Sunday, March 16, the Giraffe's major-domo, the inimitable David Webb, will add another stellar veteran to his morning staff. Of course, I'm referring to the one and only, Greta Grass, everybody's favorite full-figured gal. Ms. Girth and Mirth joins Kenny and Nnoch to make up the most experienced (read: oldest) openers on the Polkstrasse. So, if you wander in for a libation — one matin, do be respectful of your elders. Is the Giraffe up to this weighty addition? The slats are weeping as I pen this, but a creaking plank is better than no plank at all, I always say. And yes, Greta the Great is still at Zeki's (Company) on California Street, Tues.-Thurs.

As for myself, well, the early bird catches the worm (especially if it's at the bottom of a bottle of tequila), and I'll be opening the

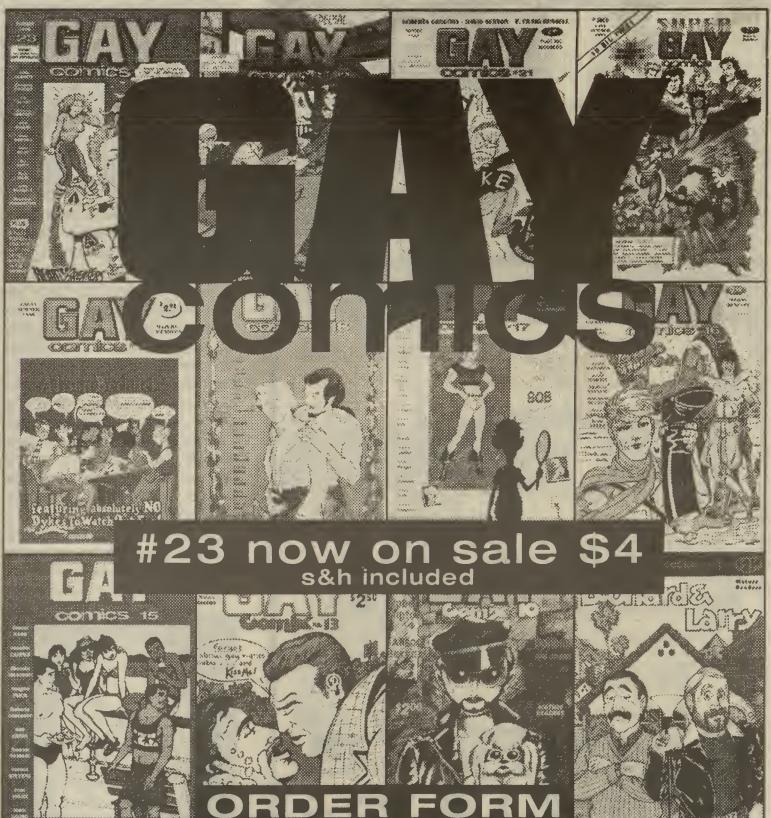
Polk Rendezvous Fri.-Sun. at 8 a.m. and working till 2 p.m. (in addition to my Thursday hours of 9 a.m.-3 p.m.). My eyelids may be propped open with toothpicks, but I can still pour! The succulent David Kapp tends bar on TGIF, 2-8 p.m. Mention this column to him and you just might get a free drink! (But bring your pennies just in case!)

Come and enjoy our St. Paddy's Day parties on the 16th and 17th — and do break out your shamrocks and shillelaghs! Yes, there'll be green beer, and Irish eyes, though bloodshot, will be smiling! P.S.: The PR is now enjoying the services of jaunty Johnny (formerly of Company), who patrols the plank Mon., Tues. and Sat. nights, 7 p.m.-2 a.m. So flutter on down and peruse this singular sensation!

Today, March 6, the fabulous Club Interlude at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway (Van Ness and

Cocktail Hour

page 55 ▶



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BLOW BUDDIES

art © Ira Smith

Big bucks for sash success

by Mister Marcus

The race for Mr. San Francisco Leather 1997 gets started in earnest this week, with hundreds of dollars in prizes, leather title vests and belts, certificates and the opportunity to compete in the Mr. SFL contest (which takes place at the Russian Center on Saturday, April 19) up for grabs.

The \$25 tickets for all seats (benefiting the AEF) go on sale at both Mister S Leather locations and at Auto Erotica (4077A 18th Street, second floor) tomorrow, March 7, on a first come-first served basis. Tickets will be \$30 at the door if there are any left! The newly renovated Russian Center (Sutter at Divisadero) boasts at least 100 more seats for this year's production, which will be orchestrated by Audrey Joseph of Fantastic Realities working in conjunction with Warren Cave.

International Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon will co-emcee the event with former Ms. San Francisco Leather Queen Cougar. The entertainment lineup includes the imitable Solomon Rose, who for two years in a row has wowed them at the Mr. Palm Springs Leather contests.

But what about the contestants? There are pros and cons about being sponsored or entering independently. The judges do not add or subtract any points if you have a bar title or not, and the entry fee for all contestants is \$25. Of course, you must be a resident of San Francisco for at least a year and 21 or older.

At my deadline, the Castro Station, Daddy's Bar, SF-Eagle, The Edge and the Wooden Horse were definitely staging contests to compete for San Francisco's premier leather title. The first one is tonight, Thursday, March 6, when Bart Bartholomew will pass his sash to the 1997 Mr. Castro Station Leather. Other leather-oriented businesses and bike clubs may have entries as well, not just bars.

On Sunday, March 16, The Edge will stage their Mr. Edge Leather '97 contest, which offers \$300 in cash and a leather stud title vest by David Speer of Image Leather. Working in conjunction with Alan Selby, Eric Weinmann and Phil D'Amico have Danny Williams emceeing the event, plus leather celebrity judges. If you're interested, there's a recruitment



Lisa Weismuller, Ms. Fallen Angel Leather of Los Angeles, will compete in IMs.L in San Diego July 18-20.

party for any prospective contestants on Tuesday, March 11, at 2100. Check it out, and be there on Sunday, March 16, for the \$7 beer/soda bust, featuring an auction of dream dates with basket contest winners (attn. size queens!) and other valuable items. Proceeds of the bust and auction go to AIDS Benefits Counselors, so you know Paul Causey will be there to take home the loot!

On Wednesday, March 19, the Mr. Daddy's Leather '97 contest takes place. The action begins promptly at 2100, with IM '92 Lenny Broberg wielding the mike. The winner of this contest will get \$300 cash and a title vest plus other prizes not yet announced. The judges have been selected already, and the Olympic scoring system will not be utilized. It promises to be a fun evening at Daddy's, so drop in for the excitement.

Rounding out the week, the Wooden Horse on Polk Street hosts their Mr. Polk Street Leather '97 soiree on Friday, March 21. Eric Weinmann is teaming up with former Mr. Northern California Drummer Omar Moseley as producers. The winner of this first-ever title will receive \$200 in cash and a leather title vest by David Speer of Image Leather.



Chicago's Mr. Cell Block Brian-Mark Conover (left) is shown here with fellow contestants Mufasa (center) and Tom Otten. Brian was the first runner-up in the Mr. April BCC last week at the Eagle.

Judges have been lined up for the competition. I advise you to get there early because the Wooden Horse is the smallest (and the friendliest) bar in the Bay Area!

The final bar competition of the month is the Mr. San Francisco Eagle Leather contest on Thursday, March 27, at 2100. We are at a loss to explain the no-show of current title holder, Joe Piazza. The winner will receive \$300 in cash and a leather title vest.

That brings the total to five for the bar competitions, but bike clubs and others have been encouraged to enter contestants, so April 19 should be an interesting evening. Application forms for the competition at each bar listed above are available now! Get out there and show your leather pride!

IMs.L update

While leather men around the country are gearing up for IMs.L in May, leather women are on the march to San Diego the weekend of July 18-20 for the International Ms. Leather 1997 competition. The weekend is billed as "You'll



Bear babe Laura Carlos of the South Bay Bears is only the female member of that ursine group as far as we know.

get sand in places you've never dreamed of" and Amy Marie Meek's Bare Images Productions is full steam ahead with this year's edition. The host hotel is The Hanalei, with rooms at \$99 per night. Their toll-free number is 1-800-226-3830. Be sure to ask for the IMs.L rate.

The action begins on Thursday, July 17, with the contestants' orientation meeting and other events. On Friday, July 18, the leather vendor fair opens at the hotel with a 1900 press party, followed by a basket auction with goodies offered from each contestant to benefit the travel fund for the winner. On Saturday morning, July 19, the contestants face the judges for an interview, and later in the day, outgoing IMs.L Jill Carter will be "roasted" by any and all who dare.

The doors open at 1930 that same night at the Spreckles The-

ater, and the contest and show begin promptly at 2000. Afterward, there's a post-show (victory) party at the San Diego Eagle. The leather vendor fair continues until 1800 on Sunday, and the victory brunch is at 1100, followed by a press conference and a wind-down party at The Flame at 2000.

So how much will all this cost? The producer gives everyone a break with a time line for reduced prices at various cutoff dates. The full weekend package is \$80, which includes the victory brunch. Without the brunch, it's \$65. If you pay by April 1, deduct 15%; if you pay by May 1, deduct 10%. They will take MC, Visa, AmEx and Discover cards (but add \$2 service charge), or mail your money order/check (payable to Bare Images Productions) to BIP, 4332 Browne St., Omaha, NE 68111-1829. You can also call (402) 451-7987 or fax (402) 457-5350. Their e-mail address is ims1@synergy.net. Order your tickets now and make your reservations early - this one will probably be a sellout!

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, March 6

Mr. Castro Station Leather '97 will be chosen at that bar tonight. Since there was no press release, I suggest you call the bar to find out all pertinent info.

Picking Mr. May 1998 on the BCC at the Eagle promptly at 2200. Judges former Dyke Mommy Beth Elliott, bike enthusiast Kath Dudak and Mr. SF Bear Bill Adams will put the contestants through their paces. Win \$100, fame - and do it for the AEF.

Free HIV anonymous testing upstairs at 933 Harrison, 2030-2230, courtesy of Brad Grant and the Stop AIDS Project.

The Cycle Runners MC hosts its first beer bust of the year at Daddy's, 2000-2300, \$7. Billed as a balloon (!) beer bust.

Friday, March 7

Mr. Northern California Drummer 'Taurus' stages his flashlight party at the SF-Eagle, 2000-2400, with a silent auction of erotic art and prize for most creative "light attire." No beer bust - just buy your own. Over 65 pieces of original art signed by the artists will be on display.

Saturday, March 8

Cal Eagles MC's one-day run to the fabulous Monterey Aquarium. Leaving from Daddy's at 0830, \$13. Bring \$ for a lunch stop and gas. Returning by 1800.

Tuesday, March 11

Recruitment party at The Edge at 2100 for the Mr. Edge Leather contest on March 16. Learn the rules, prizes, contest format, etc.

Around ye olde campus last week, the most exciting thing going was the grand opening of The Loading Dock on Friday night. I took Chicago's Mr. Cell Block Leather Brian-Mark Conover and IML's official photographer Ron Volanti with me, but the line out front stretched almost to Van Ness Ave. We, like lots of other people, decided to visit the place when it was less crowded, but good reports emanated from all quarters.

On Thursday, Feb. 27, seven more chest-worthy men faced judges Patrick Batt, Ron Volanti and 1997 BCC cover man Mike Wieland, who posed the questions. The packed house enjoyed a spirited, laugh-filled evening, and in the end, a native San Franciscan, Marl Seeba, took the Mr. April 1998 spot. The first runner-up was Brian-Mark Conover. As interest in the calendar grows, the number of contestants increases. Mr. May 1998 will be chosen tonight, Thursday, March 6, at 2100. Win \$100, fame, perhaps marriage? My photo lab let me down, so no photos of Mr. Seeba until next week.

On Saturday night, March 1, Tom Powers (Mr. April on the current calendar) staged a "Midnight Weenie Roast" and beer bust



Queen Cougar (shown here with Omar Moseley) will co-emcee the Mr. SF Leather '97 contest with Intl. Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon

at the SF-Eagle. Hey, it was a rockin' night with a female rock group, Midnight Picnic, earning an enthusiastic response. Even the breeders wandering around the neighborhood came in to check it out. Daddy Irwin Kane auctioned off various items, and a good time was had by all. Some \$500 was raised. Tom Powers is just one example of the spirit that the 1997 calendar men possess!

On Sunday, the Golden State Gay Rodeo Assn. Bay Area Chapter (GSGRA-BAC) staged their Western-style beer bust at the SF-Eagle. The weather couldn't have been better as a huge crowd materialized for the event. Lots of cute cowboys but not a horse in sight! The food was great and so was the entertainment. As late as 2100, the action was still hot and heavy. ▼

Sweet Lips

◀ page 53

Pine) is throwing a fundraiser for the very worthy Godfather Service Fund, 6-8 p.m., with celebrity bartender Tom Hass of Matagrano Inc. (Budweiser). Complimentary hors d'oeuvres from 6 to 7 p.m. Ten percent of all revenue and tips go to the GSF; be generous! Call 447-3012 for more info.

The Ladies Who Brunch Dept.: Moze (formerly The Gate) is now serving a reportedly scrumptious brunch, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., on Sundays. If you like a good feed, give them a try.

Don't forget those mistresses of illusion, En Drag, and their two spectacular shows every Friday night at the legendary Kimo's. It's must-see TV and only \$3.

On a more somber (and sober) note, workdays for the National

AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park have been scheduled for March 15 and April 19. They're very appreciative of any help you can give.

Two exciting Polkstrasse events are both taking place at the Wooden Horse. First, of course, there's the bar's monthly (March 27, 9 p.m.) Miss Wooden Horse Amateur Drag Contest, open to "any amateur drag person." Winners get \$100, a crown and their smiling puss plastered all over the place! Trannyshack's own Stefan Grygelko will be your emcee. So resurrect those old "Love Hangover" tapes and start to synching!

Second (and not to scoop illustrious leather maven Emperor Marcus I, you understand), the Wooden Horse will be hosting the Mr. Polk Street Leather 1997 Contest on March 21 at 9 p.m. The lucky winner will receive \$200, a

leather/studded vest (by the talented David Speer of Image Leather), and will go on to perhaps even greater fame and fortune in the Mr. SF Leather 1997 Contest. Mr. Northern California Drummer 1995 Omar Moseley will be your enchanting master of ceremonies. The Revealing Wear portion of the soirée should be quite, uh, revealing. Call 771-8063 for more info.

Flash! Word has just come to me that on Saturday, March 15, David Kapp and James will be celebrating their 10th anniversary with a big bash at the PR. Mucho congrats to these two lovebirds! Aww! Plus, the redoubtable Dolly Dale will be here the week of the 23rd for her golden birthday. Yes, it's the big 5-0 for Dolly, who will undoubtedly hit the half-century mark with her usual style! Lock up the liquor (and the silver) and keep your sons at home! ▼

Wednesday, March 12

It's Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison. Slither in and slush around. For more info, call 512-PISS.

Lou Duff presents a "Basic Rope Bondage" class, 1900-2200, at Castlebar. Call 550-0122 for more details.

Thursday, March 13

Big Basket contest at The Edge bar tonight at 2100. You know what the requirements are. Yes, it's a beer bust.

STD checkups free upstairs at 933 Harrison, 2030-2230.

SF Leather Daddy Loren Berthelson's monthly "Star Butt" buttrageous party and \$7 beer bust at Daddy's, with raffles, prizes, etc. This is a benefit for IML Larry Everett, who recently lost all his possessions in a fire.

Friday, March 14

"Taurus" Webster hosts a Water Boys party/beer bust at the Eagle tonight, 2000-2300. The San-Diego based Water Boys group boasts thousands of members worldwide. Come and find out what it's about! Gush freely and frequently! Whatever happened to "Chuck With the Rimless Glasses, the Golden Shower Queen for Life"?

Saturday, March 15

The documentary, The Castro, airs on KQED Channel 9 at 1930. Set your VCR if you're going to be out on the town.

"Beauty's Revenge III," a mini leather closet ball at the Driftwood in Hayward. Omar Moseley, Irwin Kane and others will be there in drag. Should be a riot!

a taste of leather

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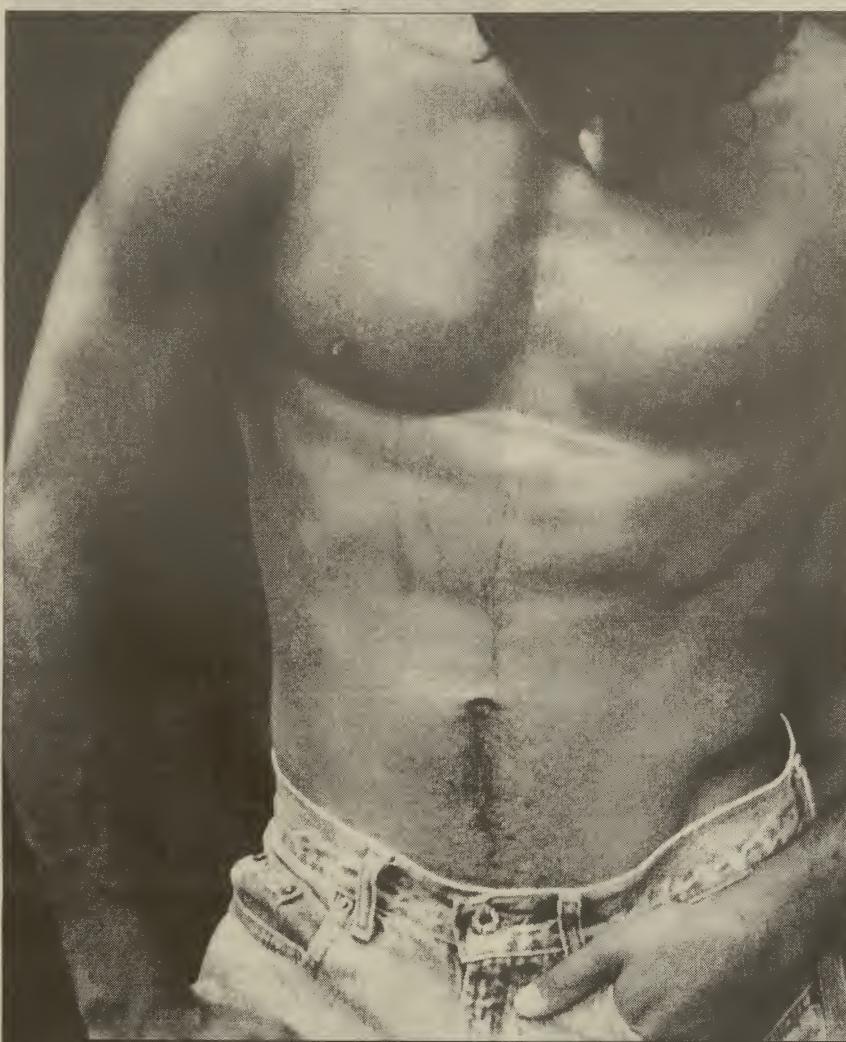
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P-Dome Jan. 24 Latin/Grt Smile

You: mask, sexy eyes, beat, smile, jeans/rd/wt sleeveless shirt. You dashed the guy then left. Sexy body, beat soul, warm smile—me too. Who RU? Pts call. ☎ 5002.

Sun 2/8 Eve Castro 18th

Me: bl leather jacket, Khaki milt cap, gray hr. You: 5'10", dk hair, stach, beard, leather jacket, (glasses?). Looked 1,2,3. Newsstand obstructed. Search for you. Please call. ☎ 5003.

Pleasant Hill BART 2 Yrs Ago

Used to catch BART home together nearly everyday but never spoke. Saw each other again 2/8, me in Sweet Inspiration, you passing by. You dark hair, goatee. Me: Asian, glasses, goatee. Let's finally say hi. ☎ 5004.

Caltrans Feb. 5

You Caltrans, me Napa stopped in Benicia for a break. Let's do it again slower. ☎ 5063.

Sweet Inspiration Flirtation 2/7

To the gorgeous guy I spied at dessert: you cringed, I cringed—we cringed and cringed, but we barely talked. Call me for more than just a look. Won't disappoint. ☎ 5064.

Ivan 1/07 Tues. Fairy party

You: sexy, black hair, blue goatee, me: GBM, tatoos, dress. You: gonna be a brak afterward. Too shy to give you my number. I'm jonesin' for you baby! ☎ 5101.

Embarcadero YMCA Sun 1/26
French guy. We talked on way out of gym. Haven't seen you there since. Let's get together some time. ☎ 5005.

Pierced At Mack Valentines AM
You had stache, glasses, hairy chest, pierced tits & PA. We played hard. You said your lover would also like to see you. Let me be your pig. Silicon it's? Call Mark. ☎ 5102.

Darrin F. From Seattle

Really enjoyed meeting you in December at Pasqual's. Tried to call; phone disconnected. Pts call and leave your #. This time it will be more than fast time. ☎ 5103.

Sweet Inspn's/Mon. 2/3 9:30PM
I was sitting in window w/friend. You: tall/slender, glasses, sat w/back to me. You turned around & said "Hi." We left at the same time. I'm sure we met before? ☎ 5104.

Catacombs 2/8

You: black shirt, white pants. Me: in all black. Danced & stared at each other all night, you said good-bye, hope to see you again. Want to see you now! ☎ 5105.

Ballet Sun PM 2/16 In SF

You: yellow jacket. Me: black hair, beige shirt, with woman in white. Caught your wink in lobby, but to shy to run with it. Would love to meet. ☎ 5106.

You Were—Now You're Gone

You were Thal. A real hoon to me. We had it going even if you are busy I would still like to be on your call private second. Downtown. Remember. ☎ 5107.

Powell St. Muni Wed 2/19

You: sexy, black man, going up. Me: dressed in black, wearing Macys cap, going down your caught my eye (and move), turned to catch your great smile. Let's meet. ☎ 5108.

2/20 12AM Hamburger Mary's SJ
You smoked and had a drink with your (bodyguard). Exchanged glances when you left. I love your smile in your eyes, so beautiful to this GAF. Together sometime? ☎ 5201.

P. Camarda Would You Call Again
I only have part of your number, and I would like very much to talk to you. Thank you, S. Stevens. ☎ 5202.

Handsome Carlos

met at Fag Fridays. You had a out of town. Wanted your number before I left but couldn't find you. Want a date with you. Blend Mike with motorcycle. ☎ 5203.

Wrong Phone Number

Jan, you replied to a Bar Talk ad in Bay Area Reporter on 2/23 under "Fetishes" Scat, Water sports. Phone # was wrong, you left for me. ☎ 5204.

Dear John

We met Friday 2/21. Would like to see you again brief as it may have to be. Can't seem to get your big beautiful dick out of my mind. Ron. ☎ 5205.

Valentines On Burnett Ave

Mo: older 40+, Lesbian crossing upper Burnett Ave; You: blond in a blue? truck almost running over me. Cute smile!! To meet you. ☎ 5206.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Attractive Latina

Cute like me. Late 30's, dk blond, private bod, 5'10", Hollywood fit, very oral, tell me what you look like. ☎ 5006.

Certified Bottom 4 Certified Top
Attractive GWM, 28 yrs, 5'10 1/2", 135#, auburn/blue. Mustache, slim & semi-smooth. HIV. ISO LTR with masculine, muscular gay man, no any race w/afro, oral. HIV+, 40+. HCV. Civic Center or Tenderloin area only. ☎ 5007.

Basics

I am a HIV+ top, 5'8", 135 lbs, pink/hazel, mustache. Are you a HIV+ bottom, 6'2", 175 lbs, mustache or similar? Are passion and integrity important to you, too? If so, call me, we should meet. ☎ 5008.

Boy Wanted

18-14, 180-190, Sonoma co. to teach me to be your dad. You: BL slim, sincere, oral. Me: 5'10", bl, 120#, hung, very oral. Let's talk. ☎ 5009.

Top-Looking Bottom Seks

Bottom-looking top, I'm 6'2", 270#, hairy-crested, bearded, brown/hazel. Excreted by too-thin, blonde or red-headed, muscular, boyish types. Nerd a plus! ☎ 5010.

My Fat, Hair Ass

Needs an overweight conversationalist expert companion. Let's talk & walk all over the city—burning calories & forming a friendship. ☎ 5011.

Grandpa's Boy

WW, 30, 5'10", 150#, looking for single WW age 55-70, bald, gray, slender, non-smoker, must be clean, good natured. Intelligence + +. ☎ 5012.

Glam-Sexual

Cute like me. Late 30's, dk blond, private bod, 5'10", Hollywood fit, very oral, tell me what you look like. ☎ 5013.

Tall Texans Seek Asian Third

Attractive GWM, HIV+, 40+, seeking attractive Asian third for regular hot times, possible LTR. We're passionate, loving & sincere. You be too. ☎ 5014.

HIV+ Hunks

Want some interesting, intelligent, attractive, HIV+ gay men at our body positive parties & social events. All types of men. Find friends, romance or both. ☎ 5074.

HIV+ Bottom ISO HIV+ Top For DTNG & poss. LTR. GWM, HIV+, bottom, 42, 6', 180#, bald, buzzcut, bl, gldkg, masc., sym toned, sensitive, romantic. Enjoy working out, photography, movies, reading. ☎ 5015.

Companion Wanted...

By English gentleman. A "Doctor Watson" type, for discrete, quiet outings etc. very respectable. I am mid-aged, dominant, intellectual. ☎ 5017.

Stats And Facts

Professional GWM, 40 something, bl/bl, 5'10", 160#, HIV-, ND/MS, stable and ready for LTR, seeks similar, age 35-45, for romance and adventure! ☎ 5017.

I'm Mr. Right (But For Whom?)

Well ed., & well endowed, 6', 175#, 40, in EB. Enjoy outdoors, music & a bunch of other stuff. I think I'm pretty intel, w/sense of humor. I know I'm a top. ☎ 5018.

Seek African-American

Goodlooking muscular clean cut GAM, 34, 5'9", 172#, seeks similar (or larger) African-American men, 25-40, for friendship, fun... ☎ 5019.

God-Like, Magical Enchanting

Me: 21 yo, WM, 140 lbs, bl/blu, very good-looking, attractive, slim-build, affectionate, warm, creative, empathetic. You: 20's, 30's, WM, model-caliber looks, muscular, masculine, strong, dominant/top, confident, looking for deep intimacy with another guy. ☎ 5020.

I Had A Dream Of You...

Me: 37, 5'11", 155#, handsome, into life, most everything. Looking for my dream in life. Call for details. Oh, how your overalls cling to your sweaty hip. ☎ 5021.

Snuggle Buddy Wanted

GWM, 38, 6', 165 lbs, Italian/German, HIV+, brown/hazel, goatee seeks a nurturing, affectionate, tall, slender, muscular, attractive, top, confident guy. ☎ 5022.

Older Heavyset Seeks Younger

GWJM seeks GAM for friendship poss. relationship. Must be 18-24, skinny/smooth, no facial hair, no taller than 5'9". I am 30, 5'9", 232#, hairy. ☎ 5023.

N. Bay Artist Seeks Partner

I am tall, cute, independent, sweet, tough, confident, unaffected, romantic, humanitarian & a very horny bottom. HIV+. UB similar top, hairy, butch, horny, A Bay Area traveler. Let's explore romance together! ☎ 5024.

All American Boy

GAM, 26, 5'10", 155#, Looking for a man, 23-35, any race, active, clean cut, tone, fit, attractive and sensual experiences. A versatile top with an expressive mind. ☎ 5025.

ABC Of Family Values:

Our family relationship begins as I (A) suck your dick so well that you (B) shoot your heaviest cream, which I (C) swallow as Holy Communion, making you a living part of me! ☎ 5026.

Handsome Athletic Friendly

Smooth Asian male is interested in receiving strong, extended, sensuous, full body oil massage from experienced massage persons on a regular basis. All replies will be answered. ☎ 5027.

Silk And Nylons

Horny GWM Daddy ISO GWM bottom in panties, panty-hose etc. UB: 50yrs+, bottom in bed & equal partner out. Me: 40's & hung. Enjoy role playing. ☎ 5028.

Black Man Short Nudrads

Beard, HIV+, 6', 6'1", 40, seeks friends. I'm a musician, masseur, gardener, a music teacher. NSDN/NDR. I'm vegetarian. I'm into spiritual practices & simple living. I live in a small cabin in Mendocino county & visit SF often. No looking for sex buddy. ☎ 5029.

Handsome Muscular Italian

38, 6'2", 185 lbs., into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV+, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 5065.

Attractive Latino 25

5'7", 165#, college educated, humorous, my only fault I'm HIV+. Seeking Latinos or Caucasians under 34. Prefer NS & open to adventures. ☎ 5066.

Very Intelligent, Handsome GAM

24, 5'6", 110#, smooth, HIV-, seeking generous GWM/GAM to enjoy quality of life. I like travel, reading, shopping, art, philosophy and wonderful things. Be honest, healthy, HIV+, not fat. ☎ 5067.

White Collar Sks Blue Collar

Rough and tough with heat of cold. Masculine? Hair? Hung? Dominate? Facial hair? Are you looking for 5'10", 170#, bl/rn/bl, 35, opposite; sexy, sweet, GWM. Home, cooking, sex, friends & more! LTR. ☎ 5068.

Need A New Boyfriend?

WW, 52, looks 30's, 5'10", 155#, clean shaven, NSDN/NDR. For AM, 25-35, looking for long term monogamous relationship. Like 40's-50's music, theater, dancing, travel, subca, photography, movies, dancing, cats. Affectionate, loyal, marriage-minded. Outstanding opportunity for the right person. ☎ 5069.

HIV+ Total Top Wanted

East Bay Concord area bottom, HIV+, 34, 6', 185#, blonde, blue, kinda sombre, needs big brother/dad type. Must/need LTR with Virgo or Capricorn. ☎ 5070.

Gdkg Exec. Type

50 yo GWM, 5'10", 190#, healthy, pos, hung, uncut, ISO masc. hot man oral expert & Bears A+. Call for more! ☎ 5073.

HIV+ Hunks

Want some interesting, intelligent, attractive, HIV+ gay men at our body positive parties & social events. All types of men. Find friends, romance or both. ☎ 5074.

Wanna Plunge Into Paradise?

CWM, 35, 5'4", 130, meth/bleu, blue, needs man with free days. I offer honesty, humor, hungry as & mouth to loving body. Me: homebody. You: open minded, loyal, eager to share life together. ☎ 5211.

Attractive GAM Seeking Lover

Male GAM, 36, 5'10", 130, HIV+, & extremely healthy. Seeking GWM under 40, versatile, in shape, to share the secret life and not afraid of commitment. Serious replies only. ☎ 5212.

Seeking Asian Top Mostly

GWM seeks healthy dependable Asian stud who spans perspicuously & is commanding crazy. Caring when perpetually & eternally horny. Tends to be humorous & witty too. ☎ 5109.

Seeking Adventuresome Soulmate

5'9", 145#, who Nerd, hair, bics, gym, tv, arts—other arts, backpack, exotic, travel, looking for intimate companion, preferably with international perspective trim, fit, no beards or mustaches. ☎ 5110.

I Miss Loving Someone

AIDS widower, would like to start a fresh beginning. 36yo, Filipino, HIV, straight acting, non-materialistic, seeking GWM, 40-50 yo, for dating—leading to monogamous LTR. ☎ 5111.

I'm A GWM CHP Officer

Looking to meet other CHP & police officers for discreet fun times. I'm 34, HIV-, 6'1", 210 lbs. I like tall men under 45 & HIV-. ☎ 5112.

Clean Cut All American Guy

Seeking a serious relationship. Me 31, 5'8", 160, muscular, light hair, firm body, brown/bln, cute face, HIV+, professional. You: similar GWM/GLM, versatile, stable. ☎ 5113.

East Bay Fun

Attractive, very light BM, 6'2", 195#, 45, athletic, educated, seeks Asian or Latin-American for hot tender happenings. ☎ 5114.

Seeking Ownership

Handsome 32 yo, seeks 25-40 yo master for long-term ownership. I am very loyal & will serve you well. Into many fetishes & scenes. Am serious, you be too. ☎ 5115.

Hot Latin Bottom

Seek tops, any race. AM HIV-, 5'8", 155, slender, mature, nicely stacked between legs, smooth tight ass. Can be top with Asians. ☎ 5116.

Explore Nature With Me

Cute, curly, blonde, blue eyed, boy-man. Seeks: handsome, sexy, bear with a love of nature, for outdoor exploring & adventure. ☎ 5117.

Life Partner/Soulmate Sought

Spicy, Suntanious Dutch man, 41, trim, fit, tan, loves nature, nurture, cuddling, authentic & kindness. Seeks deep meaningful union for life's journey Libra plus. ☎ 5118.

GWM ISO Partner

38, 190, brn/gm, must/brd. Well read, prof, stable. Likes: music, theater, movies, museums, parks, motorcycling. Seeking: gentle male, 25-40, intel, must/brd, bearish, 150-210#, not overly butch or femme. Want relationship not sex buddy. ☎ 5119.

Sex Buddy & Maybe More

GWM, 36, attractive, Italian. Looking for tall, dark, hunky man with a big round butt who like men shorter, compact, slim & well-toned for dating sex & maybe more. ☎ 5120.

Sex Is Important But Not Enough

To make me want to spend my time with someone. Intelligent, professional with sense of humor and varied interests, 40, 6', 175#, good shape. Ready for relationship. ☎ 5121.

I Do Love To Meet A GWM

For friend & open mind, slender, slender or w/curves, attractive, NSDN/NDR, HIV+, healthy, enjoy fun quality time, honest, sense of humor, GWM, warm affectionate, caring. I do enjoy being top. ☎ 5122.

Sports Lvr And Outdoorsman Wtd

I love sports, country music, Wranglers, cowboy boots & fishing. Looking for similar friends & playmates. Sex is fun too. I'm tall, thin, hairy, bearded. Let's go to a game. ☎ 5123.

Dark Sexy Handsome Guy

33 yo, GWM, 180 lbs., sexs, same. I'm new to SF with a variety of interests, you should be masculine, 25-40, and together. No drugs or fms please. ☎ 5124.

New To City

Masculine, gentle, 37, WM, 6', 175#, seeks compatible new friends & eventual monogamous romance. Interests: exploring SF, volunteering, having fun, keeping fit. ☎ 5125.

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino, 31, black hair, brown eyes, 5'7", 150#, with goatee, professional, HIV-. Looking for GWM or Hispanic between 25-37, for friendship or maybe more. Call me. ☎ 5207.

Sleepless In San Francisco

30+, Puerto Rican 5'8", 8', handsome, crew cut, want friend for movies, walks, meet for tea. Sex: versatile! I stick you, you stick me. Call. Manly yes, often no. Wht/European/Latino only pls. ☎ 5208.

HIV+ Monog Spiritual Hon Rmrt

That's what I am & looking for, 38, 5'11", thin/musc. build. Smoker, ND. No drinking, no games, starting to take care of body & mind. Friends, poss relationship. ☎ 5209.

Looking For Fun Sexy Short Men

Pierced, tattooed, 31, into intense music, HIV+, with beautiful eyes & smile looking for similar for lots of versatile sex & friendship. Prefer darker, hairy, short, well built, fun guys. ☎ 5210.

Wanna Plunge Into Paradise?

CWM, 35, 5'4", 130, meth/bleu, blue, needs man with free days. I offer honesty, humor, hungry as & mouth to loving body. Me: homebody. You: open minded, loyal, eager to share life together. ☎ 5211.

Attractive GAM Seeking Lover

Male GAM, 36, 5'10", 130, HIV+, & extremely healthy. Seeking GWM under 40, versatile, in shape, to share the secret life and not afraid of commitment. Serious replies only. ☎ 5212.

Little Bro Seeks Big Brother
30 yr, GLM, 5'11", 165#, slim build botton, hairy, GWM, 30-45 yrs, for fun and/or loss LTR. Let's get together & see what develops. No fats, fems & liars. SF only. ☎ 5213.

German Bi Born 66 Apart Castro
Blond, blue green eyes, hairy, short hair, uncut, unique legs dominate, but tender, Berlin raver, now downtown/Nob Hill, smoker, need you up to 35. ☎ 5214.

Handsome Latino
5'9", 155#, 32, looks younger, smooth body-face, like the outdoors, healthy life, seeks mature under 42, in good shape, male, any race for friendship possibly. LTR. EB A+. ☎ 5215.

Caring, Honest and Real
24yo, GWM, 5'11", 208#, brn/blue, HIV+, seeks GWM or GLM, 25-45, for friendship, poss relationship, with varied interests, affection and honesty. Pls no "tricks." ☎ 5216.

Seek Red Head
GWM, 5'11", 165#, HIV-, clean cut, brown/brown ISO of attractive red heads between 20-37, for friendship, fun... ☎ 5217.

ISO Blue Collar Workers
SGBM, 45, 6'3", 210#, ISO of blue collar worker types. Race/age open. Masc, muscular, long hair, hairy a plus. For friendship and fun. ☎ 5218.

Waiting To Exhale
GWM, 35, 5'11", 190#, brn hair/eyes. Trim, muscular build, handsome, hairy, horny, masculine, professional, HIV+, seeks GWM, similar age attributes; H/W prop, for dating & poss LTR. ☎ 5219.

Slim Edikin Hip Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, versatile, hairy, good build, 50+, facial hair guy. Short, small dick OK. Smoke OK. Sale only! ☎ 5220.

Caring Latino Artist 56 Seeks
Younger Asian for quality friendship poss. LTR. Enjoy nature, classical music, lit, quiet even. ☎ 5221.

Charming Cutie GWM Seeks...
Handsome, down-to-earth, white/Chinese, professional for late night drives, soft kisses, and uninhibited laughter. I'm 29, lean, blond, and professional. Hopefully, you're just a normal guy like me! ☎ 5222.

Hopeful Romantic Pos Man
GWM, 43 yo, 5'11", 180#, masculine, energetic, hairy, good build, into outdoors, big smile, horny, travel, cooking, old movies, beaches, sunsets, romance, honesty, passion, commitment, hot sex, relationship. ☎ 5223.

Desirable Companion Desired
Respectable, conservative gentleman is older & sadistic/masochistic. Private places in Healdsburg and SF. ☎ 5224.

Muscle Bear ISO Gorilla For LTR
Hairy, very hairy chrome-domed body, 5'9", 160#, ISO gorilla-hairy mate for LTR. Healthy HIV+, you too. Into muscle, working out, bear-on-bear licking and sucking and fucking. ☎ 5225.

Senior Looking For Junior
GWM, retired, will financially assist student artist, intern etc. in exchange for occasional assignments. Must be 19-30 yrs, friendly, affectionate, caring. ☎ 5226.

Father-Son-Grandson
You; young & slender & smooth. Me: 6', 175#, Age: 74. Open relationship. ☎ 5227.

Cum Freak
Wants to become world's best cocksucker to maximize loads. Already invited onto US. Olympic cocksucking team! (OK, provided you tell me—guess how—member of crack German Team to defect). ☎ 5228.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

AI Oral Service Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers oral oral service to mature trim guys who really dig getting fucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 5030.

Seeking Low Hanging Balls
I'm turned on by low hanging balls in a ball stretcher. I'll orally service you and/or you can fuck me. Piercings a plus. HIV+ or -OK. ☎ 5031.

Black East Bay Top Man, Mature
With Texas size equipment enjoys husky Hispanic & body builder bottoms. Availability, strictness and discretion guaranteed. Mustache essential. Direct phone # please. ☎ 5032.

GWM 6'2", 170#, 8 1/2" HIV+
Very bottom seeks GWM/GLM for hot sex and dating. Leave a message & I'll get back to you. ☎ 5033.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt
Versatile, 5'11", well-built, hairy, hung big needs Cau men, 20-30's, well built hairy hairy bubble butt to eat & fuck. ☎ 5034.

Be Happy And Surprise
HIV+, handsome, GWM, 5'9", 163#, mad 40's, seeks GWM, 48-65, with a big thick dick that enjoys oral service for hours. Also you'll be in for a surprise too! ☎ 5035.

Bubble Butt Pussy Boy
Seeking top Daddy/bi/brother for hot times. Boy is 37, 5'7", 135#, mustache, goatee, shaved head & tattoos. ☎ 5036.

Beginner Needs Be FF
WM, HIV-, 115#, 5'2", 56, brn/blue. Very, very, tight little, hairy ass. Wants to be probed all the way!! Slow & easy. Also hairy. I'm looking for an expert on a regular basis. I also love to suck big cocks. That excites me. Let's talk soon. ☎ 5030.

Butch Hungry Santa Rosa Bottom
Deep throat expert, hairy hole. I'm 6'1", 33, 190#, healthy HIV+, must/brd, fat cock/balls, very masculine. Seeks in shorts, hung 8"+, butch tops. Beards A+. ☎ 5037.

Wntd: Handsome HIV+ Men/Boys
Xtra handsome man, 30's, 5'10", 165#, br/bi, smooth, clean shaven, masculine, oral, frisky ISO hot HIV+ man/boys for oral-receive. ☎ 5038.

Let's Get It On
Bitch, 200 lbs, 48, into submissives 35+ wth & Ltr bottoms eager to please, aroma, massage play. Horny-sensuous-experienced. ☎ 5039.

Tantric Shaman
Will train apprentice (prefer 18-32, before Saturn returns)—to 40 considered in exchange for cooking and cleaning etc. at occasional weekend retreats or live in, rustic country cabin. ☎ 5040.

Dominant Man 35
Seeking submissive house slave for regular use & abuse. Age, looks unimportant. Must have strong desire to please. ☎ 5041.

Do You Love To Give Head?
Looking for guys really like giving head. I'm GWM, 49 and very appreciative. Learn phone # age/race. Not important. ☎ 5042.

Identify With This?
Inseparable. Cannibal. Crave. Desire. Passion. Urge. Sated. Erosion. Satisfy. Fulfill. Amorous. Camal lust. Yearn. Hungry to get off by a Italian? Call me now. ☎ 5043.

Daytime Action Downtown Hotel
WM, 38, 5'8", 150#, into oral sex. Drop by and drop your pants. You won't be disappointed. Visiting SF 2/28-3/5. ☎ 5044.

6'5" Irish German Daddy
Seeks synergy with goals oriented boy who science & likes the outdoors. Please be original, very smart, cute, and a lover of the ironic. ☎ 5045.

Masc GAM Top 150 GWM BB
Masochistic, dominant, bottom for buffed body-capped bodybuilder/daddies, coaches and trainees. Call for your hard work for coach/massuer. ☎ 5046.

I Am 18 - 38
6'1", 155#, looking for someone 18-50 for fun. Must be hairy 9" or more. I want BJ you. ☎ 5047.

ISO Rare Breed Black Bear
Versatile GWM, 51, 6'2", 180#, stache, wants to play with hairy black men. Good kisser, tit & ass play A+. ☎ 5048.

Afternoon Sex Buddy Wanted
Ass massage. Erotic spanking. Me: top, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250 lbs, heavy build, mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attire, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate hair, nice buns. ☎ 5049.

Hot/Pas
WM, 37, muscular, hot, buttle butt, ISO, HIV+, fitness minded man for hot sex. Call ad for specs. ☎ 5051.

Eat & Fuck My Muscle Butt
Attractive bottom/versatile hairy, good tight, bubble butt for your pleasure. ☎ 5052.

Top Fist Daddy Is
Goodlooking, proportionate, 6'1", 40's, hairy, seeking proportionate fist bottom. ISO morning experience. Once or reg. sale. Younger, hung, uncut, BB=pluses. ☎ 5053.

Seeking Executive Type Male
57-52ish. Like dark features, hairy, beer belly OK. Mtc 26, French/German, 5'10", 150#, swimmers build, Scorpio, green eyes, employed...new to SF would like some company. ☎ 5051.

Santa Rosa Perfectly Smooth Bottom
From native habitats! Plan tropical trip. Advice from your trip could save time & \$\$. Don't need come nast, only 2 pump you 4 info. ☎ 5052.

ISO Hot Adven Top W/Exceptional Endowment
That makes my cock rock hard & kinky, provocative ideas that stir my balls. GWM, 37, 5'5", 145#, attractive, well-built, hairy, adventurous bottom. Uncut big balls/loads pluses. ☎ 5128.

Comportamental GWM
24, needs 30 & 40 something's GM who are 6' tall & tops to please/pursue with a beat-long & sensuous preferred. ☎ 5127.

Afternoon Delight (Or Any Time)
Seeking GWMs 35-45, hairy, fit, hairy & hairy/virgin for safe sex w/GWM 40, 190#, 5'11", Italian, hirsute, fit, hung, top, hairy, any age/race, but good cock to grab onto. ☎ 5235.

GWM 35 Seeks Guys 18-30 4 Sex
Weekly meetings wanted 4 sex, sex, and sex. Group sex is OK too. Bring your boyfriend. Serious and cute only. Must be HIV- and no drugs. ☎ 5236.

Just Shut-Up & Ride!
WM, 32, 5'10", 190 lbs, blonde, blue-eyed, muscle hunk likes for goodlooking, masculine men to come over and pump me full of squirt. Call anytime, even latenite. ☎ 5131.

Hot Nasty Boys Only
For long intense sessions of butt play. UB: 25-35 yo, GWM/GLM, clean shaven, fat cock/balls, very masculine, oral, 140#, 100#, hot top, 40 yo. Always hard. ☎ 5132.

Mature WM Sks WM 65 Or Older
To instruct this straight male hot to suck your cock. As your ass call oral slave. Performing until your rock hard then shooting your load on my face. ☎ 5133.

Build Pig Bottom
Looking for in-shape guys who love to fuck. Me: 5'8", 115#, hairy chest, 33" waist, deep throat, hot bottom, hungry mouth at your service. Some AM's PM's. ☎ 5237.

Great Service Bottom
Total bottom. Attractive, clean cut, Dadd, 5'9", 155#, hairy chest, 30 waist, deep throat, hot bottom, hungry mouth at your service. Some AM's PM's. ☎ 5237.

Ride On My Bushy Mustache
And feel my long tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, brn/blu, 70 yo. You: hot & ready. ☎ 5238.

Hot Piece Of Muscle Ass Wanted
Dominant, muscular, fuck stud, versatile, 37, 6'1", 185#, seeks boy/men, 20-38, with hot muscle butts who want their rock hard bodies filled by my rock hard 8" bottom. ☎ 5132.

Black Latin Men Of Color
Handsome, prof, mac, 6', 200#, 9 1/2" uncut, very clean, discreet, HIV-, seeks attractive, 25-45, well hung 9"+ &/or thick beefy big round butt, thick legs A+. Fuck, fuck. ☎ 5240.

Submissive And Collared
Collared GWM, 37, needs your leash and collar. Attr, non-smoking, submissive, 5'10", 160#, sex seeking male, GM, oral service, submission. ☎ 5241.

Round Black Butts Butt
For masculine, well-hung, black & Latino top guys. I'll service you from head to toe. Prefer stocky guys. I'm 5'1", 111", 200#, ready & willing! E. Bay welcome. ☎ 5135.

Nothing Feels Better...
For long intense sessions of butt play. UB: 25-35 yo, hairy chest, 33" waist, deep throat, hot bottom, hungry mouth at your service. Some AM's PM's. ☎ 5237.

Cum Hungry In Contra Costa!
GWM, 31 yo, cute boyish looks and body, needs hot masculine in shape men, 25-40, with large loads lusting to explode in my warm mouth. ☎ 5124.

Scat Water Sports
GWM scats white bottoms 22-45. Me: 5'10", mustache, short beard. HIV-. Maybe on going friendship. No fats or farts. ☎ 5144.

Bondage For Asians
Dominant, well hung male, 38, 5'10", 160#, 8" likes to tie up and use other in shape guys. Likes limited discretion. ☎ 5207.

Nothing Feels Better...
For long intense sessions of butt play. UB: 25-35 yo, hairy chest, 33" waist, deep throat, hot bottom, hungry mouth at your service. Some AM's PM's. ☎ 5237.

Get Serviced By 2 Hot Bottoms
One of us wants to be your pussy boy while the other sucks you off or eats your ass. We're hungry and institable. Try us this weekend. ☎ 5244.

Older Seeking Younger Man
Under 40 for going Daddy-son, master-slave, scenes, I'm an attr. GWM, 73, 5'9", 165#, who values friendships. ☎ 5245.

Romantic Bottom?
Anytime looking, nice, interesting. 5'8", 135#, blondish, 40 top, 8", seeking average or good looking, easy going bottom, any race, weight proportion, 25-40, for bare back sex, friendship, maybe LTR. ☎ 5246.

Tie You Up & Tie Me Down
Attractive GAM guy-toned, 35, 5'9", 150#. I'm seeking someone to explore. S&M, bondage for erotic torture pleasure. ☎ 5140.

Black? Hung?
Big hunk (serious) looking for black guys with huge dicks fuck my unbelievable ass. There is no such thing as big. ☎ 5248.

Non-Mainstream Man W/Big Cock
F*ck face for hours. Seeks on-going associations for regular service. Age, race unimportant. Enthusiasm, endurance essential. ☎ 5249.

Street Skaters
Want to play with you? Good looking, hairy, seeking proportionate fist bottom. ISO going experience. Once or reg. sale. Younger, hung, uncut, BB=pluses. ☎ 5251.

Grizzly Bear Hungry For Sweet Asian honey hole, 1'1", 175#, hairy, 5'11", masculine, good build/looks. You experienced top, masculine, same, safe sex oriented. No Druggies/Drunks. ☎ 5151.

Naked At The Door
Have you ever answered your door stark naked? lean, masculine, GWM, 40, seeking young guys with tight trim builds to interview for sex & nudity survey. ☎ 5251.

Let's Dock And J/O
Wrap your skin around my swollen dick head. Rub our hot boner tips together. Make our loads ooze around the edges. Open to other penis play. I'm 43, 5'9", 150#, bald, good, hairy body, goodlookin. ☎ 5252.

Romancing The Bone
Handsome guy 6'1", 185#, 35, enjoys blowing guys with big dicks. ☎ 5253.

FETISHES
Have Cam Corder

Looking for guys into being on film for private collection. You get a copy. Top/Bottoms—Leather, BB/FBB big heads, butt, eater, sound receiver. ☎ 5255.

Have A Foot Or Leg Injury?
Are you in a cast, brace, bandages, wheelchair or crutches? Or just have big swollen feet. Age unimportant. Prefer white/latino. Me: Asian, 23, 5'8", 158#, attractive workout. ☎ 5053.

Hot Rim
Your hole must protrude & have lots of lip on it. Sit on my rim chair & let me eat you. I love it! You: in shape, 21-45. Me: 40, hot, masculine, 5'11", 165#. ☎ 5255.

Mature Men
Looking for slightly dominant older men, 50-90, who enjoy oral service. Blue collar types, uncut A+. Not into BB, gay, leather, or games. ☎ 5154.

Are You A You? Are You Hunky
If so, I'd like to watch you totally humiliates and degrade one of my pigs. Bootlicking, water sports, scat, spit, snot. Do it all! ☎ 5254.

Asian Leather Top
Seeking HIV- GWM to worship and provide oral service to this smooth bodied, leather-clad, attractive top who enjoys wearing leather and tall boots. ☎ 5256.

WM Teddy Bear Seeks Dom BM

I need spankings, piss, humiliation, and obedience training from a trustworthy, circumcised BM (any weight/endowment size) longing to be part-time WM Slaveboy. No experience necessary. ☎ 5254.

Exper Vac-Pumper Meat-Up

Hot, 39, 180#, 6", hung, bearded, masculine pumper looking for hairy masculine, experienced pumper buddies into long, sweaty, scuzzy pumping. Jackoff and mega-huge cock, ball & tit play. Be experienced. ☎ 5258.

* Nipple Master +

Service and training for GWM. Do you need yours world? enlarged? pumped? tortured? Have great selection of tit toys. John. ☎ 5256.

Bondage

Dominant, well hung male, 38, 5'10", 160#, 8" likes to tie up and use other in shape guys. Likes limited discretion. ☎ 5207.

Nothing Feels Better...

For long intense sessions of butt play. UB: 25-35 yo, hairy chest, 33" waist, deep throat, hot bottom, hungry mouth at your service. Some AM's PM's. ☎ 5237.

Scat Water Sports

GWM scats white bottoms 22-45. Me: 5'10", mustache, short beard. HIV-. Maybe on going friendship. No fats or farts. ☎ 5144.

Bondage For Asians

Dominant, well hung male, 38, 5'10", 160#, 8" likes to tie up and use other in shape guys. Likes limited discretion. ☎ 5207.

Hot Husky Cigar Smoking Dad

41 yo, bearded, mustache, looks like father, or son, or in his 40s. Smoking, fucking, fucking & watersports. Must have facial hair, positive A+. ☎ 5246.

Romantic Bottom?

Anytime looking, nice, interesting. 5'8", 135#, blondish, 40 top, 8", seeking average or good looking, easy going bottom, any race, weight proportion, 25-40, for bare back sex, friendship, maybe LTR. ☎ 5246.

Tie You Up & Strip Me Down?

GLWM, bl/bl, 5'5", 140#, likes to shave guy's crotches & bodies. Prefer in shape, W or L guys, will strip, tie you up, play with your cock/balls/tits & make you cum. Muscular, hairy, good build/looks. ☎ 5246.

Restrained Spread Eagle

One of my favorite positions in S&M. My partner sed 7 years bottom 39, 5'11", 190, masculine, good build/looks. You experienced top, masculine, same, safe sex oriented. No Druggies/Drunks. ☎ 5148.

Want to Get Shaved Down?

GLWM, bl/bl, 5'5", 140#, likes to shave guy's crotches & bodies. Prefer in shape, W or L guys, will strip, tie you up, play with your cock/balls/tits & make you cum. ☎ 5246.

Public Hair Worship

Looking to meet anyone for eating crotch hair while masturbating each other. Age, race, amount of hair unimportant. ☎ 5150.

Grizzly Bear Hungry For Sweet Asian honey hole, 1'1", 175#, hairy, 5'11", masculine, good build/looks. You experienced top, masculine, same, safe sex oriented. No Druggies/Drunks. ☎ 5151.

Please Love Me Daddy

Visiting from Canada, 35, 6'2", 190#, HIV+, masculine, handsome seeks Daddy, big brother type for cuddling, affection & more. ☎ 5063.

Gay Asian Singers Wanted

GAPA (Gay Asian Pacific Alliance) chorus recruiting/gay/bi Asian pacific men to sing and socialize, no formal training necessary, all skill levels welcome. We meet every Wednesday night. ☎ 5062.

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23yo, AM, college grad, seeks others, similar age for play, smooth, good looks, and conservative. 5'5", 130#, swimmer's build. S 5263.

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6', 180#, Tarzan seeks friendly competition for Tom of Finland wrestling. Clean technique, no body gets hurt, manly sport. Muscular, handsome guy, fun to wrestle. My mat or nude beach. Scared? I'll let ya win. ☎ 5265.

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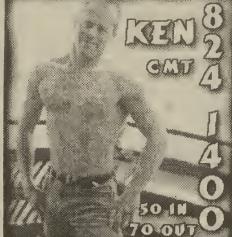
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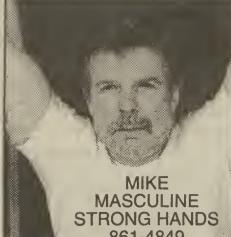
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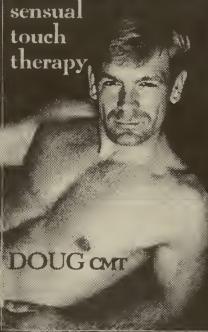
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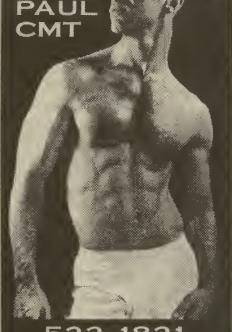
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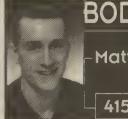
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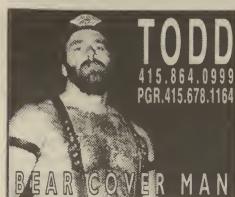
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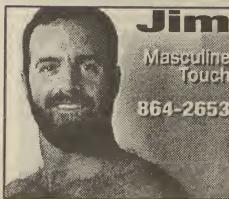


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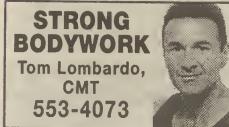
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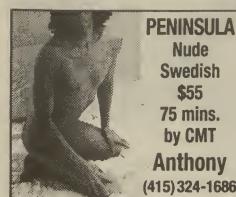


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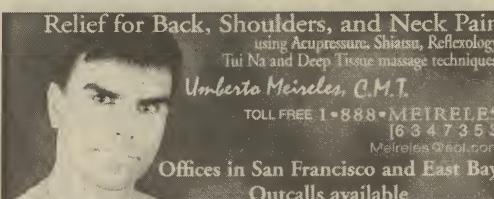
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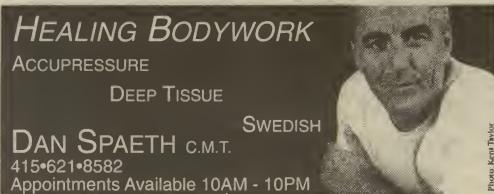


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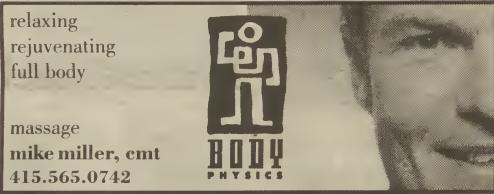


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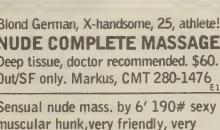
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Sensual nude mass. by 6' 190# sexy

muscular hunk, very friendly, very

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Total body sensual euphoric massage.

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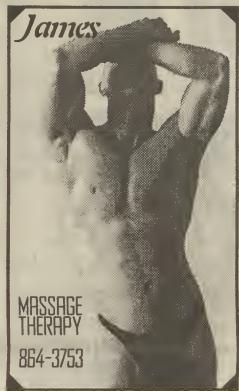
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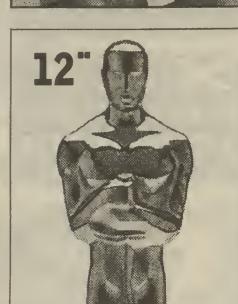
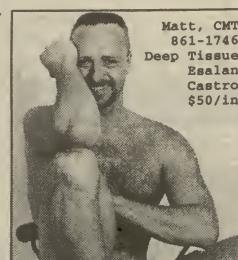
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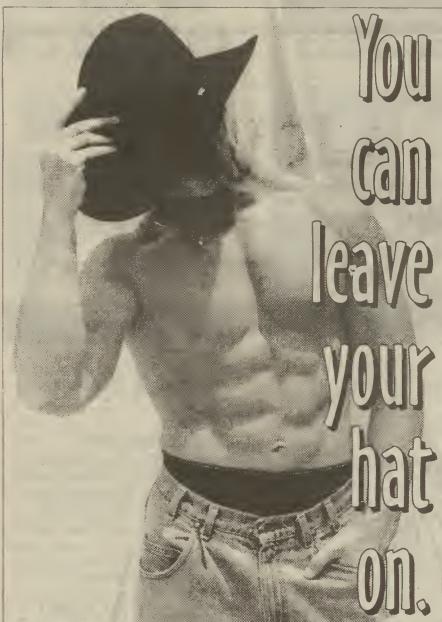
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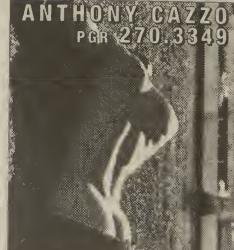
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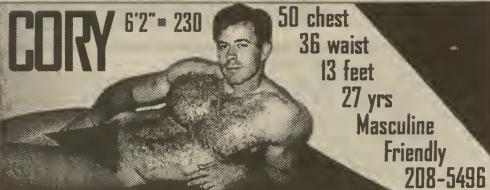
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baseball biceps, hard buffed body with a powertool ready for action. Pg: 207-6786

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